



Thomas Willingale School and  
Nursery

# Parent Conduct Policy

Reviewed Summer 2023

# Thomas Willingale School and Nursery

## Parent Conduct Policy

At Thomas Willingale School and Nursery we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, staff and the school community. As a partnership, our parents will understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about the expected conduct. This is so we can continue to support your children to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

### Guidance

As well as following the guidance set out in our Home-School Agreement, we expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos of our school
- Understand that both staff and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children
- Demonstrate that all members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue
- Correct own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour e.g. riding scooters and bikes on school premises, climbing on fences and railings.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment, the school cannot tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, the school office or any other area of the school grounds including sporting/team matches
- Using loud or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Abusive or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff at the school on social media websites (see Appendix 1). Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises

- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the alleged actions of this child towards their own child (such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences)
- Smoking (including e-cigarettes) and consumption of alcohol (unless a licence has been granted through a school social event) or any illegal or harmful drugs whilst on school property
- Dogs being brought onto school premises (unless Guide dogs or Therapy dogs)

Should any of the above behaviour occur on school premises, the Headteacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and if necessary, even ban the offending adult(s) from entering the school grounds. Bans will be determined on an individual basis and put in writing to the offending adult(s).

We trust that parents and carers will assist our school with the implementation of this policy and we thank you for your continuing support of the school.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites**

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff and in some cases other parents/pupils. Thomas Willingale School and Nursery considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher or Senior Leadership team so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child being educated at Thomas Willingale School and Nursery found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on a social network site, they will be reported to the appropriate "report abuse" section of the network site. All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly is the issue of cyberbullying and the use by one child or a parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying.

We would expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

### **Inappropriate use of WhatsApp and other social media groups**

Class social media groups are a useful tool for parents/carers to share information about the school, class events and homework as well as organising social events such as birthday parties. We are, however, aware that social media groups can sometimes be used inappropriately making some parents and teaching staff feel uncomfortable and we would like to provide further guidance as part of this policy.

The Group Admin parent/carer should include all class parents/carers into the class group and not deliberately exclude any parent. Any parents/carers not wanting to join a group or leave for any reason should be respected.

Only class parents/carers should be in the group and it is appropriate for anyone leaving the class to leave the group.

Remember that parents/carers have joined the group to learn information relevant to their child and although sharing school news/concerns is positive, it should be done in a respectful and constructive manner.

Parents/carers should refrain from criticising any individual (parent/carer/child/teacher) and should be respectful that a child may be having specific issues resulting in behavioural problems which are being dealt with and the parent/carer does not want to discuss in an open forum.

As a general point, parent/carers should not comment on topics which may cause offence to other parents/carers and be mindful that excessive criticism may result in "hysteria" which is not constructive to the school or the children.

All parents/carers should be sensitive to the fact that there may be events such as birthday parties which not all children are invited to and it may be appropriate for a smaller social media group to be set up for your child's party if you are not going to invite everyone in the class.

Parents and carers should respect that everyone is busy and other parents/carers may find excessive messaging stressful especially when not directly related to their class.