

## Parental Code of Conduct

(Sept 22 – Sept24))

*The term 'parent' covers parents, guardians, relatives and other carers.*

The Headteacher, staff and Governing Body at Hermitage Primary School take their responsibility for positive parental relationships very seriously. At Hermitage, we are extremely fortunate to have supportive and friendly parents. Our parents recognise that educating our children involves an effective partnership that will equip our children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons, we continue to welcome and encourage parents to participate fully in the life of our school and their child's education.

The purpose of the Parental Code of Conduct is to provide a reminder to all parents and visitors to our school of the **expected** conduct. This is so we can all continue to develop and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect.

### Expected Parental Behaviour

We expect parents and visitors to:

- respect our 'caring code' and ethos
- understand that teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of our children
- demonstrate that **all** members of the school community are treated with respect and therefore set a good example
- seek to clarify a child's version of events with school staff in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue
- approach the school, without anger, to resolve any issues of concern
- linked to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), parents to ensure that they do not take videos or photos of assemblies with other school children and then share them on social media platforms (paragraph 7.1 holds more detail, within the Digital Images Policy)
- correct their child's actions especially where they could lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour – both on and off the school premises

In order to ensure a peaceful and safe school environment the school will not tolerate parents or visitors exhibiting any of the following:

- displaying disrespect to any member of the school including: intimidating behaviour, making unreasonable demands, using equipment to record conversations
- use of abusive, threatening, defamatory, offensive or derogatory language regarding the school or any of its pupils either in person, over the phone or in any correspondence including email or dojo or on any social media (see Appendix 1)

- use of physical aggression towards any adult or child, this includes physical punishment of your own child on school premises
- disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of the school
- damage of school property including smoking, consumption of alcohol or other drugs on school property, bringing any animal onto school premises (unless a registered service dog)
- approaching someone else's child in order to discuss an incident or chastise them (this may be viewed as an assault on that child and may have legal consequences)

*Should any of the above behaviours occur on school premises the school will take a zero-tolerance approach, may contact the appropriate authorities and ban the offending adult from entering the school grounds.*

**In order to maintain a professional relationship, all staff will address parents as Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss ....first names will not be used. We ask parents to respect this and refer to staff in the same way.**

We trust that parents will assist our school with the implementation of this policy and we thank you for your continuing support of the school. Together we want to create a positive environment for our children and all who work and visit our school.

Please note this policy applies to any adult who collects a child or visits the school.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites/Media/Class Dojo**

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, head teachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/guardians or pupils.

The Department for Education/Government and Governors at Hermitage Primary School considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable. Any concerns you may have about the school or your child/children must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher firstly, the Head teacher or the Chair of Governors, where they will be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

**Libellous or Defamatory posts** - In the event that any pupil or parent/guardian of a child/children at Hermitage is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on any 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/guardian or pupil removes such comments immediately.

**Cyber Bullying** – we take very seriously the use of cyber bullying by one child or a parent to publicly humiliate, threaten, offend another by inappropriate social network/media entries. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of bullying.

*In serious cases, the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and media sites.*

*Thankfully, such incidents are extremely rare.*