

Michael Hall

a Steiner Waldorf School

Parent Code of Conduct

Policy Owner	SLT
Formally endorsed by	Principal
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CONTENTS

1. Introduction

2

2. Purpose and scope	2
3. Our expectations of parents and carers	3
4. Behaviour that will not be tolerated	3
5. Breaching the code of conduct	4
Appendix 1: model letters	
Initial warning letter from the Principal	5
Model letter banning a parent from the school site	6

1. INTRODUCTION

We are proud and fortunate to have an involved and supportive parent body who recognise that educating children involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community. As a partnership, our parents/carers will understand the importance of good working relationships with the school. We are committed to resolving difficulties in a constructive manner, through an open and positive dialogue. We understand that everyday misunderstandings can cause frustrations and have a negative impact and ask parents to resolve issues through appropriate forums. Where issues arise or misconceptions take place, please contact your child’s class teacher/guardian or Assistant Principal in the first instance. Where issues remain unresolved, please follow the school’s complaints procedure. This is available on the school website or a copy can be requested from Reception.

We welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school. This policy is designed to enable everyone to do so whilst adhering to our values of “Ready, Respectful, Safe”.

2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

At Michael Hall School, we believe it is important to:

- Work in partnership with parents to support their child’s learning
- Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and parents
- Model appropriate behaviour for our pupils at all times

To help us do this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community. This includes staff (through the staff code of conduct) and pupils (through our behaviour policy).

This code of conduct aims to help the schoolwork together with parents by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

- Anyone with parental responsibility for a pupil
- Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or child-minders)

3. Our expectations of parents and carers

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school, remembering at all times that we are "Ready, Respectful, Safe."
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils
- Treat all members of the school community with respect - setting a good example with speech and behaviour
- Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct
- Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern

4. Behaviour that will not be tolerated

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sporting events)
- Swearing, or using offensive language
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- Threatening staff or another member of the school community
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms or in a public forum of any kind
- Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult
- Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- Vexatious written communication of any sort
- Damaging school property
- Dogs being brought onto school property without express permission from a member of the leadership team (other than guide dogs or the school dog)

5. BREACHING THE CODE OF CONDUCT

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the parent about the incident.

Depending on the nature of the incident, the school may then:

- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent to school to meet with a senior member of staff or the Principal
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from the school's legal team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the parent from the school site

The school will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the Principal.

The Principal will consult the chair of Trustees before banning a parent from the school site.