



Parent, Carer, and Visitor Code of Conduct



1. Introduction and Rationale

At St Barnabas, we believe that children learn best in a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment. We recognize that a strong partnership with parents and carers is crucial to our pupils' success and well-being.

This Code of Conduct outlines the expectations we have for the conduct of all parents, carers, and visitors while on school premises, or when engaging with the school via telephone, email, or social media.

By enrolling your child at one of our schools, you agree to adhere to these principles to ensure a positive school community for everyone. We ask that you also ensure any other adults who bring your child to school (e.g., grandparents, childminders) are aware of these expectations.

2. Our Shared Core Principles

We expect all members of our school community—staff, parents, and visitors—to:

- **Respect:** Treat everyone with courtesy, dignity, and respect, regardless of their role or background.
- **Model Behaviour:** Act as positive role models for children in how we speak and act toward others.
- **Partnership:** Work collaboratively with staff to resolve issues constructively and privately.
- **Safety:** Prioritise the physical and emotional safety of all children and adults on site.

3. Expectations of Parents and Carers

To foster a positive environment, we ask that parents and carers:

3.1. Communication and Interaction

- Use a polite and respectful tone when speaking to staff, governors, other parents, and children.
- Understand that mornings are busy. Please book appointments via the school office to speak to teachers at length, rather than trying to address serious concerns at the classroom door during drop-off.
- Respond to school communications (emails, slips) in a timely manner.
- Trust the professional judgment of staff. While we encourage discussion, aggression or dismissal of professional expertise is not acceptable.

3.2. On School Premises and Vicinity

- Follow school procedures for entry, exit, signing in, and parking. Please park considerately outside the school gates and respect our neighbours.
- Move calmly around the school site.
- Use appropriate language. Swearing or offensive language on school grounds is prohibited.
- Ensure children arrive punctually, in the correct uniform, and ready to learn.
- Dogs (except assistance dogs) are not permitted on school grounds.
- Smoking and vaping are strictly prohibited anywhere on the school site or immediately outside the school gates.

3.3. Social Media and Online Behaviour We recognise the value of social media forums (like class WhatsApp groups) for parental support, but they must be used responsibly.

- **Think before you post.** Do not use social media to voice complaints against the school, members of staff, other parents, or children. Grievances should be addressed directly with the school through official channels.
- **Safeguarding and Privacy:** Never post photographs or videos of other people's children on social media without the explicit consent of their parents/carers. This includes photos taken at school plays, sports days, or events.
- Do not name members of staff negatively on social media.

4. Behaviour That Will Not Be Tolerated

The school will not tolerate any behaviour that is seen as threatening, abusive, or aggressive. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Shouting at members of staff, either in person or over the telephone.
- Physically intimidating behaviour, including standing too close or aggressive hand gestures.
- The use of aggressive or offensive language (swearing).
- Threatening a member of staff, governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer, or child with physical violence.
- Racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise discriminatory comments or behaviour.
- Defamatory or abusive comments made on social media sites.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to chastise them because of incidents that have happened between the children. (Such concerns must be reported to a teacher).
- Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs whilst on school property.

5. Breaches of the Code of Conduct

We hope that these situations will be rare. However, if a parent/carer or visitor breaches this Code of Conduct, the school will take action to ensure the safety and well-being of staff and children.

The response will depend on the severity of the incident, but may include:

1. **Verbal Warning:** A senior member of staff will speak to the individual privately about their behaviour.
2. **Written Warning:** A formal letter from the Headteacher or Chair of Governors outlining the concerns and expectations for future conduct.
3. **Meeting:** A formal meeting with the Headteacher and/or a Governor.
4. **Restricted Access/Ban:** In serious cases, or persistent breaches, the Headteacher (often in consultation with the Governing Body and the Academy) has the right to ban an individual from the school premises under section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If banned, the individual is trespassing if they enter school grounds.
5. **Police Involvement:** In cases of actual or threatened violence, harassment, or hate crimes, the police will be contacted immediately.

Agreement

We trust that all parents and carers will join us in upholding these standards to ensure our schools remain happy and safe places for our children to thrive.

This policy is available on the school website and a hard copy can be requested from the school office.