



Primary School

Hartshorne CE Primary School & Governor Run
Nursery

Parent/Carer Code of Conduct

January 2025

Review date: January 2027

Our vision & values are born out of God's love & nurture of all creation.

Together we work as a family to see one another grow and flourish: knowing that we are precious & unique to God.

We aim to live out our values in our school & the world around us as we play our part in God's wonderful creation story.

God's family, growing together; inspiring our world

Introduction

The Governing Board and Headteacher strongly believe that our school should be a welcoming and safe place for our children, staff, parents and visitors alike, and that our parents share that belief. We have legal responsibilities for the safeguarding and wellbeing of our children and staff, and a duty of care to all users of our school. This policy relates to the following legislation:

- ✎ Education Act 1996
- ✎ Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- ✎ Children Act 2004
- ✎ Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- ✎ Equality Act 2010
- ✎ Children and Families Act 2014

We believe that it is essential to involve and engage with parents, as much as possible, in all aspects of school life as we realise they have an important role to play in their children's education. For parents, being 'involved' can mean anything from communication with the school; attendance and home learning; being actively involved in their children's work and the target setting process for their children; attending parents' meetings, and attending social and fundraising activities.

All adults who enter our school site at any time set examples of behaviour and conduct which influence our children and young people, and we believe that they should therefore demonstrate high standards of conduct in order to encourage our pupils to do the same. Parents, carers and visitors must show respect to all other parents, carers, children, staff and visitors.

Adults who do not behave in an acceptable manner may be asked to leave the site and the Headteacher has the right to further restrict their access.

Parents must be aware that school premises are private property and they have been granted permission by the Governing Board to be on school premises.

Purpose and Scope

At Hartshorne CE Primary School & Governor Run Nursery 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 school work 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 childminders).

We use the term 'visitors' to refer to:

- Anyone collecting the child on behalf of the parent (e.g. named older siblings above the age of 16 years).
- Anyone visiting the school as part of a group with a parent or carer.
- Anyone person provisionally on the school site.

Our Expectations of Parents and Carers

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- Respect the Christian ethos, vision and values of our school.
- 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. Abuse towards any staff member will not be tolerated and may lead to being barred from the school site under Section 547 of the Education Act (1996). Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 makes it a criminal offence for a person who is on school premises

without legal permission to cause or permit a nuisance or disturbance. The public has no automatic right of entry onto school premises.

- Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern.
- Raise a complaint with the class teacher or staff member initially. If it is not resolved, parents may escalate the concern to the Senior Leadership Team. If it is still not resolved, the complaint can be brought to the Headteacher.
- Seek a peaceful resolution 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.
- Support the school when sanctions or consequences for poor behaviour are issued according to the related policies.

Behaviour That Will Not be Tolerated

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches).
- Swearing, or using offensive/discriminatory language to any member of the staff or community.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to chastise or question them.
- Physical intimidation.
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents.
- Theft, damaging or destroying school property or other people's property.
- Threatening another member of the school community.
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media.
- Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises without prior permission (other than service dogs)

Social Media

Parents and carers are encouraged to reflect carefully before posting on social media and are asked to consider the wellbeing of others before doing so.

Parents are expected to treat everyone with respect and courtesy at all times –

even on social media – and reminded that adults should set a good example to their children and other pupils.

On occasions some parents are tempted to make inappropriate and/or comments about the school, school staff, other parents and/or pupils on social media. Parents and carers are strongly discouraged from posting negative messages with regard the school on social media. Social media is not the forum for raising concerns or complaints about the school or other parents. If parents have a concern about the school, they can raise their concern directly through the school's Complaints Procedure which is available on the school website.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a pupil is found to be posting inappropriate comments on social media, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the social media site and consideration will be given to taking further action. Repeats of such behaviour will be considered as cyberbullying which is unacceptable. Making potentially defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about others on social media could have legal implications. In addition, threats of violence can lead to a criminal action. The school will also expect any pupil or parent/carer to remove such inappropriate comments immediately.

Legal Framework

Under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 it is an offence for any person to be on school premises to cause or permit a nuisance or disturbance. It provides the right to remove and prosecute any person who is believed to have committed an offence.

Whilst a parent or carer of a child attending the school normally has implied permission to be on the school premises at certain times and for certain purposes, this permission may be withdrawn if the parent or carer exhibits behaviour which the Headteacher believes is unreasonable. This also applies to all other individuals invited into the school for other reasons.

In the event of any parent/carer/visitor breaching this Policy then proportionate action will be taken, for example:

- Parents, carers or other visitors exhibiting unacceptable behaviour could have their access restricted which prevents access to the school premises.

- Anyone who has had their access restricted and then ignores the restriction and enters the school site may be removed from the school site and prosecuted, if it is believed they have committed an offence.
- The removal of a person believed to be causing a nuisance or disturbance, and, if necessary, legal proceedings against them.

In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is considered to be a serious and potentially criminal matter, the concerns will in the first instance be referred to the Police. This will include any or all cases of threats of violence, and actual violence, to any child, staff, visitor, contractor or Governor of the school. This will include anything which could be seen as a sign of harassment of any member of the school community, such as any form of insulting social media post or any form of social media cyberbullying.

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 Headteacher or the Governing Board.

The Headteacher will consult the Chair of Governors before banning a parent from the school site.