

04 July 2024

**RE: Parent Code of Conduct**

Dear Parents and Carers,

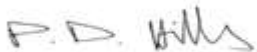
I am writing to introduce our Parent Code of Conduct which has recently been introduced in schools across our academy trust, The Russell Education Trust.

We encourage regular and transparent communication with parents and carers as we work together to ensure that your children receives an outstanding education which enables them to fulfil their full potential.

The vast majority of our parents/carers at St Andrew the Apostle are incredibly respectful and supportive of staff. Occasionally, across the Trust, there have been incidences of parents and carers behaving inappropriately on school sites and in their communications with school staff. You will appreciate that we have a responsibility to protect our staff from intimidation and abuse, and to protect our students from witnessing aggressive and inappropriate behaviour. That is the aim of the Parent Code of Conduct which is enclosed with this letter for your information.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school and our hard-working and committed staff.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Philip Hills

Headteacher

# Parent, Carer and Visitor Code of Conduct

Approved by **RET Board**

Approved on **July 2024**

RET contact **CEO**

Revision due **Every 2 years**



RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST

## 1. Introduction

- a. RET schools are all founded on the principle of a positive and successful partnership between our schools and parents; this is reflected in our approach to supporting learning, ensuring good attendance, providing enrichment and extra-curricular activities and working together to support pupils' welfare.
- b. We understand that in some situations when working together to support children, parents and schools will have different views about what the approach should be. Usually we find that constructive dialogue leads to a shared understanding of a situation and agreement about the way forward.
- c. On very rare occasions, when parents behave inappropriately or unacceptably towards our staff we need to take steps to resolve this and this document outlines our approach to this.

## 2. Purpose and scope

- a. We believe that it is important to:
  1. Work in partnership with parents to support children's learning.
  2. Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and parents.
  3. Model appropriate behaviour for our pupils at all times.
- b. 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).
- c. This code of conduct aims to help us work in partnership with parents, carers and other visitors by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

## 3. Our expectations of parents, carers and other visitors

- a. We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:
  1. Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school.
  2. Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils.
  3. Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech and conduct.
  4. Seek a peaceful solution to all issues.
  5. Correct their own children's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct.
  6. Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern.

## 4. Behaviour that will not be tolerated:

- a. Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches).
- b. Swearing, or using offensive language.
- c. Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents.
- d. Threatening another member of the school community.
- e. Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media.
- f. Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms.
- g. Use of physical punishment against your child while on school premises.
- h. Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult.
- i. Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event).
- j. Possessing or taking drugs on the school premises (including legal highs).
- k. Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs while on the school premises.
- l. Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs).

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## 5. Breaching the code of conduct

- a. If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that someone has breached the code of conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the person about the incident.
- b. Depending on the nature of the incident, the school may then:
  1. Send a warning letter to the person.
  2. Invite the person into school to meet with a senior member of staff or the headteacher.
  3. Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour).
  4. Seek advice from our legal team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous).
  5. Ban the person from the school site.
- c. The school will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision about how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the headteacher.
- d. A decision to ban a parent from the school site is a very serious one but unfortunately is necessary occasionally. The headteacher will consult the chair of governors and Trust CEO before making such a decision. Decisions to ban are taken within the framework of the [DfE Guidance](#) and may be reviewed by the school. The letter banning the person from the school site will make clear how communications with the school can be maintained.