

BELLAGHY PRIMARY SCHOOL
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS

SCHOOL ETHOS AND MISSION STATEMENT

Bellaghy Primary School strives to provide, in partnership with parents, a broad quality education so that all the pupils can reach their full potential within a caring, secure environment promoting self-discipline, motivation and individuality.

RATIONALE

At Bellaghy Primary School we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, school staff and the local community. As a partnership, our parents understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

The school has an active Parent Teacher Association (PTA) which works tirelessly to organise events to raise funds for our school and enhance

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about their expected conduct, therefore we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

GUIDANCE

We expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Follow the school's signing in and out procedures.
- Respect the caring ethos of our school.
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of our children.
- Demonstrate that all members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour.
- Seek to reconcile a child's version of events alongside the school's version in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour.
- Ask the school for help if additional information is required.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, an employee's office, office area or any other area of the school grounds including team matches.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Damaging or destroying school property.

- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text messages on Seesaw (our online communication platform), on any social media platform or other written communication.
- Abusive or threatening voicemail/phone messages.
- Using Seesaw in an inappropriate way, for example, as a way to complain to a member of staff.
- Communicating with a member of staff, using any medium, outside of school hours 8.45am – 4.30pm. Staff members are under no obligation to respond to a message outside of these hours.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff at the school on Facebook or other social media sites. Any concerns/complaints about the school must be made in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property.
- Spit on school premises or discard chewing gum on school premises.
- Dogs without a leash being brought on to school premises.

Should any of the above behaviour occur on school premises the school may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and if necessary, even ban the offending adult from entering the school grounds.

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. The Governors of Bellaghy Primary School consider the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns or complaints a parent/carer may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Principal or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned. See Complaints Policy.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/children is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, 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/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by one child or a parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

- Use of mobile phone and Social Media Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Homework Policy

REVIEW OF POLICY

This Policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Governors and amended when required.

We trust that parents and carers will assist our school with the implementation of this policy and we thank our school community for the continuing support of our school.

Policy Reviewed - September 2024

Review Due – September 2025