



Parent Code of Conduct

Statement

Morpeth First School is a caring school which aims to create a stimulating learning environment in which every individual has the opportunity to be the best that they can be and is treated in a manner showing respect and tolerance. Our core character values are at the heart of all that we do in order for children and staff to feel 'treasured, courageous and empowered'.

Code of Conduct

At Morpeth First School we value our strong relationship with parents and carers. Together this helps us to achieve the very best for our children in a mutually supportive partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community.

As a partnership, our parents understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip their children with necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continually welcome and encourage parents and carers to participate fully in the life of the school. Parents are encouraged to contact the class teacher in the first instance if they have any concerns around incidents or school procedures. If these cannot be resolved in person, by the class teacher or, following this, by a member of the Senior Leadership team, the school's complaints procedure is available on the school website.

To create the best outcomes for children, a relationship between home and school based on the principles of care, integrity, trust and mutual respect is essential. The maintenance of this relationship is important to ensure that a child or children are safe and not open to undue distress and anxiety.

Guidance

Holding the above principles and the school's character values in mind, parents, carers and visitors are reminded:

- to respect the caring ethos and character values of the school
- that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of the children
- to use an appropriate manner when approaching staff to help resolve an issue

- that all members of the school community are to be treated with respect using appropriate language and behaviour
- To read communications sent by the school (electronic or otherwise) so that they are informed and can respond in a timely manner if required
- that the school will clarify with a child their version of events in order to bring about an appropriate solution to an issue
- to correct their own child's behaviour especially where it could lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour – both on and off the school premises
- to use other strategies rather than using school staff as threats to admonish their children's behaviour.

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

- disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's operation or activities anywhere on the school premises
- any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises
- using loud or offensive language or displaying temper
- threatening or harassing in any way, a member of staff, a visitor to the school or fellow parent/carer or pupil
- Threatening behaviour or harassment in any form towards a member of staff on or off site at any time (including outside school working hours) either in person or online, through social media platforms and chat groups
- damaging or destroying school property
- sending abusive or threatening emails, or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications to anyone within the school community including electronic messages within groups.
- defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff at the school on Facebook or other social sites including chat groups (see Appendix 1)
- The use of physical or verbal 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 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 taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises (alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events)
- dogs being brought onto school premises, other than guide dogs.

Should any of the above occur, the school may feel it necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities and/or sadly, consider banning the offending adult from entering the school premises.

Thank you for abiding by this policy in our school. Together we can create a positive and uplifting environment not only for the children, but also for all who work in, and visit our school.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that they make all persons responsible for collecting their children aware of this policy.

Appendix 1

Inappropriate use of Social Network

Social media websites and chat facilities such as Facebook and WhatsApp are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, other parents and in some cases, pupils often with no basis in truth.

The Department for Education/Government and the Governors at Morpeth First School consider the use of social media being used in this way as unacceptable. Any concerns you may have about the school or your child/children must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, where they will be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

Libellous or Defamatory posts

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/children at Morpeth First School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments about the school or staff on social media, 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 with immediate effect.

Cyber Bullying

We take very seriously the use of cyber bullying by a child/children or a parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of bullying through our behaviour, safeguarding and child protection procedures. This may involve a report being made to the police

The school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse on social networking and other sites.