FALLA PARK COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY ON BEHAVIOUR OF PARENTS (INCLUDING CARERS) AND VISITORS TO OUR SCHOOL

Statement of Head Teacher

The Governing Body of Falla Park Community Primary School actively encourages close links with parents and the community. It believes that children benefit when the relationship between home and school is a positive one.

The vast majority of parents, carers and others visiting our school are keen to work with us and are supportive of the school. From time to time it is necessary for parents and the school to deal with problems relating to particular children. It is important that discussions between parents and staff are conducted in a calm and respectful manner. In the vast majority of such situations this is what happens, but on rare occasions, aggression and verbal and or physical abuse is directed towards members of school staff or members of the wider school community.

The Governing Body expects and requires its members of staff to behave professionally in these difficult situations and attempt to defuse the situation where possible, seeking the involvement as appropriate of other colleagues. However, all members of staff have the right to work without fear of violence and abuse, and the right, in an extreme case, of appropriate self-defence.

Violence, threatening behaviour and abuse against school staff or other members of the school community, including other parents and children, will not be tolerated. All members of the school community have a right to expect that their school is a safe place in which to work and learn. There is no place for violence, threatening behaviour or abuse in our school.

We expect parents and other visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards members of school staff and the wider school community at all times. This policy outlines the steps that will be taken where behaviour is unacceptable.

Types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable and which will not be tolerated in relation to members of staff, and other members of the community are:

- shouting, either in person or over the telephone
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- constant emails and/or phone calls which amount to harassment and intimidation, despite the school's best efforts to address a situation
- inappropriate electronic activity including publishing abusive or inappropriate content with regards to the school, teachers or students on social networking websites in email communication
- hitting, slapping, punching, kicking or pushing

- physical intimidation, eg standing unnecessarily close to others
- the use of rude or aggressive hand gestures, including shaking or holding a fist towards another person
- spitting
- breaching the school's security procedures

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour. Whilst the use of such behaviour is unacceptable in all circumstances, the school is particularly concerned to protect our children from being exposed to such behaviour (whether or not directed at them).

Unacceptable behaviour may result in the police being informed of the incident.

Parental/Visitor Access to the School Premises

Normally parents/carers (and those with parental responsibility), plus visitors, are granted what is known as "limited licence" to visit the grounds and buildings of a school. Where there are serious concerns regarding the conduct of a parent/visitor, and possible staff/child safety, the Head Teacher can:

- initiate a meeting/dialogue with the individual
- write to the visitor, describing their misconduct, explaining its impact on the school and stating its unacceptability
- vary the person's "licence", say, through the addition of conditions
- warn of the possibility of a "ban" (i.e. the withdrawal of their licence) if the misconduct is repeated
- impose a ban with a review after a fixed period
- impose a ban without review

Procedure to be Followed

If a parent/carer/visitor behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of the school community, the Head Teacher and/or appropriate senior staff will seek to resolve the situation through discussion and mediation. If necessary, the school's complaints procedures should be followed by the parent. Where all procedures have been exhausted, and aggression or intimidation continue, or where the circumstances otherwise require it, a parent/carer or visitor may be banned by the Head Teacher from the school premises for a period of time, subject to review and/or legal action may be taken.

In imposing a ban the following steps will be taken:

1. The parent/carer will be informed, in writing, that s/he is banned from the premises, subject to review, and what will happen if the ban is breached, eg that police involvement or an injunction application may follow

2. Where an assault has led to a ban, a statement indicating that the matter has been reported to the local police

3. The Chair of Governors will be informed of the ban

4. As appropriate, arrangements for meetings at school regarding children, and arrangements for children being delivered to and collected from the school will be clarified

Conclusion

In implementing this policy, the school will, as appropriate, seek advice from the Local Authority if necessary, to ensure fairness and consistency.

Review Date: November 2027