"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing"

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Thatcham Park C of E Primary and Nursery School

Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and Visitors

Educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community. At Thatcham Park C of E Primary and Nursery School we welcome and encourage parents and carers to participate fully in the life of our school. The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about the expected conduct. We are a Church of England School and the Christian values of tolerance and care for others are central to the ethos of the school.

Expectations of acceptable behaviour of staff and governors is set out in the Code of Conduct for staff and Governors.

We expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos of our school
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their 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 clarify a child's version of events alongside the school's view in order to gain a rounded perspective and bring about a peaceful solution to any issue
- Take responsibility for their 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
- Respect the confidentiality of children, staff and other parents and carers by not disclosing any information gained in the course of volunteering or supporting activities to any other third party, at any time. This confidentiality must continue to be respected even if supporting with activities ceases.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the following are the types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable and will not be tolerated towards any member of the school community. This includes but is not limited to:

- Racist or sexist comments
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Speaking or shouting in an aggressive/threatening tone either in person or over the telephone
- 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 during any team matches or other sporting events
- Threatening behaviour
- Abusive or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication

- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or a child.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff, at the school, on Facebook or other social sites. Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, Headteacher or the Co-Chairs of the Governing Board, so that they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned
- Approaching someone else's child in order to chastise them or discuss their behaviour 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.

Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites

- Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff and, in some cases, other parents/pupils. We 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 you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, Headteacher or the Co-Chairs of the Governing Board, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/children being educated at the school 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 a child or parent/carer to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

We would expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting their children aware of this policy. Staff welcoming visitors to the school will also make them aware of these guidelines.