

The Rainbow Federation Parental and Carer Behaviour Policy

Rationale:

The vast majority of parents, carers and other visitors to our school are supportive of the school, its teachers, other members of staff, its pupils, their parents and other visitors, and act in a reasonable way, ensuring that the school is a safe, orderly environment in which students can learn.

Occasionally, however, a negative attitude is expressed in an aggressive, verbally abusive or physically abusive way towards these members of the school community which is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

We believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to work. Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the premises is contrary to the aims of the school.

Aims:

That all members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Expectation:

That adults set a good example to children at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and the wider community.

That no members of staff, parents or children are the victims of abusive behaviour or open to threats from other adults on the school premises.

Physical attacks and threatening behaviour, abusive or insulting language verbal or written, to staff, governors, parents and carers, children and other users of the school premises will not be tolerated and will result in the withdrawal of permission to be on school premises.

Persons Causing Nuisance / Disturbance on School Premises **Section 547 of the Education Act 1996**

School premises are private property and parents have been granted permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in cases of abuse, threats, nuisance or disturbance to staff, pupils or other parents, school may ban parents from entering school.

It is also an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996 for any person (including a parent) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist in removing the person concerned.

School is not responsible for organising arrangements for children in the above circumstances. Parents will need to provide alternative arrangements for bringing children into school.

Guidelines:

Types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable and will not be tolerated towards any member of the school community:

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour:

- Shouting, either in person or over the telephone
- Inappropriate posting on Social Networking sites which could bring the school into disrepute or be deemed as bullying
- Speaking in an aggressive/threatening tone
- Physically intimidating , e.g. standing very close
- The use of aggressive hand gestures/exaggerated movements
- Physical threats
- Shaking or holding a fist towards another person
- Swearing
- Pushing
- Hitting e.g. slapping, punching or kicking
- Spitting
- Racist or sexist comments

Inappropriate use of Social Networking 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.

The Governors of The Rainbow Federation considers 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 Heads of School, The Executive Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned. Parents must use the Complaints Policy if issues are not resolved.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in The Rainbow Federation 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.

Unacceptable behaviour may result in the Police being informed and parents or carers being banned from the school site. The school reserves the right to take any necessary actions to ensure that members of the school community are not subjected to abuse. Parents have the

right of appeal by writing to the *Chair of Governors* within ten days of permission to enter the school premises being withdrawn.