

School Community Expectations

Benson C of E Primary School

'Love one another, as I have loved you' John 13 v34

Approved by:	LGB
Date:	October 2024
Next review date:	October 2026

School Ethos

Our vision of loving one another is lived out through positive relationships and a commitment to supporting all to flourish on their learning journey. Children articulate and demonstrate the school's core values of: Understanding, Peace, Forgiveness, Love, Kindness and Wisdom. They care for each other and adults within the community.

Expectations of the School Community

The whole school community – pupils, parents and carers, staff and governors – is expected to respect our ethos, set a good example of their own behaviour both on school premises and when accompanying classes on school visits.

In addition, we also expect our parents, carers and visitors to keep our children safe by adhering to the school's request to park safely outside the school gates during morning and afternoon collections.

As a partnership, we are all aware of the importance of good working relationships and all recognise the importance of these relationships to equip our children with the necessary skills for their education, and for life.

The purpose of this policy is to establish the expectations the school has for the conduct of all parents, carers and visitors.

Where difficulties arise, the school is committed to resolving them in a constructive manner, through an open and positive dialogue. However, we understand that everyday misunderstandings can cause frustrations. When issues arise, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance. Where issues remain unresolved, please follow the School Complaints Procedure and 'Sharing Concerns about Your Child's Education: A Parent's Guide', both available on the school website.

This document clarifies what behaviour is unacceptable, and the actions the school may take should these expectations be breached.

Behaviour that will not be tolerated:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes with or threatens to interfere with any of the school's normal operation or activities anywhere on the school premises.
- Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises.
- Using loud or offensive language.
- Threatening, in any way, a member of the school community.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Sending abusive or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications (including via social media channels) to anyone within the school community.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any members of the school community on social media channels.
- The use of physical, verbal or written aggression towards another member of the school community.
- 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, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises (alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events).
- Dogs being brought onto the school premises (other than guide dogs).

It is important for parents and carers to make sure any persons collecting their children are also made aware of this policy.

Should **any** of the above occur on school premises, or in connection with school, the school could deem it necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities, and ultimately may consider banning the offending adult from entering the school premises.

Use of social media

Discussing school life in public forums through social media channels should be done with care and attention to the potential impact upon pupils and other members of the school community. Publicly criticising or humiliating another member of the school community is inappropriate in discussions relating to the school and will be taken seriously.

Online activity (including parent WhatsApp groups)

Parents of classes/year groups may choose to set up their own WhatsApp groups. This is not something required or facilitated by the school. We understand these groups can be used as an efficient means of receiving relevant updates and reminders about school events that have been published in the newsletter. Most of the time, these groups will be a beneficial resource. However, these same spaces have the power to inflame, are a potential source of misinformation and can fuel bad feeling. They also have great potential to cause unnecessary concerns. In order to prevent any offense or upset, we expect the groups to only be used to share relevant updates and reminders about school. At no point should any of the following take place:

- Identifying or posting images/videos of children.
- Accusatory, abusive or personal comments about other members of the school community (pupils, parents and carers, staff and governors).
- Defamatory or libellous comments about any individual associated with the school.
- Discussing issues about individual members of the school community (pupils, parents and carers, staff and governors).
- Bringing the school into disrepute.
- Foul language.

We recommend parents also note that each group will have a parent who is administrator who is likely to qualify as 'data controllers' and could therefore have legal responsibility, and potential legal liability, for managing personal data shared within these groups.

What happens if someone breaches the policy?

In the event of any member of the school community breaching this guide, proportionate actions will be taken as follows:

Discussions with the senior leadership team or member of the governing body with a request for the inappropriate activity to stop.

In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is considered to be a serious and potentially criminal matter, the concerns will in the first instance be referred to the Police. This will include any or all cases of threats or violence and actual violence to any member of the school community.

In cases where evidence suggests behaviour would be tantamount to libel or slander, the school will refer to the matter to Oxford Diocesan Schools' Trust legal team for further action.

Parents/carers may be banned from the school premises, and the school reserves the right to issue an immediate ban.

At Benson C of E Primary School, we take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously and will deal with any reported incidents appropriately. This is in line with relevant school policies such as Child Protection and Safeguarding, Safeguarding Allegations against Staff, Volunteers and Organisations using the School Premises, Anti-Bullying and Behaviour – all of which are available on our school website.

This policy is intended to assist in enabling the continued good relationships which exist throughout the school community, contributing to a positive and welcoming learning environment at Benson C of E Primary School, living the school vision of loving one another.