



City of Rochester School – Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct is an unsigned agreement between the Parent/Carer, Visitor and City of Rochester School.

At City of Rochester School we are very proud and fortunate to have a very dedicated and supportive school community. At our school the staff, trustees, parents and carers all recognise that the education of our children is a partnership between us.

We expect our school community to respect our school ethos, keep our school tidy, 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 during morning and afternoon collections and ensure that adequate social distancing is adhered to as per the COVID Guidelines issued to parents/carers.

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. For these reasons we will continue to welcome and encourage parents and carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

The purpose of this code of conduct is to provide the expectations around the conduct of all parents, carers and visitors connected to our school.

We are committed to resolving difficulties in a constructive manner, through an open and positive dialogue. However we understand that everyday misunderstandings can cause frustrations and have a negative impact on our relationships. Where issues arise or misconceptions take place, please contact your child's teacher or the Headteacher, who will be available to meet with you and go through the issue and hopefully resolve it. Where issues remain unresolved, please follow the school's complaints procedure. This is available on the school website or a copy can be requested from the school office.

This code aims to clarify the types of behaviour that will not be tolerated and seeks parental agreement to these expectations.

The code of conduct also sets out the actions the school can take should this code be ignored or where breaches occur.

Behaviour that will not be tolerated:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes 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 or displaying temper.
- Threatening in any way, a member of staff, visitor, fellow parent/carers or child.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Sending abusive or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications (including social media) to anyone within the school community.

- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff/governors at the school on Facebook or other sites
- The use of physical, verbal or written aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment of your own child on school premises.
- 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.
- Dogs being brought on to the school premises. (other than guide dogs)

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

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

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

What happens if someone ignores or breaks the code?

In the event of any parent/carer or visitor of the school breaking, this code then proportionate actions will be taken as follows:

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 child, staff or trustee in the school, This will also include anything that could be seen as a sign of harassment of any member of the school community, such as any form of insulting social media post or any form of social media cyber bullying. In cases where evidence suggests that behaviour would be tantamount to libel or slander, then the school will refer the matter to the appropriate authority for further action. In cases where the code of conduct has been broken but the breach was not libellous, slanderous or criminal matter, then the school will send out a formal letter to the parent/carer with an invite to a meeting.

If the parent/carer refuses to attend the meeting then the school will write to the parent/carer and ask them to stop the behaviour causing the concern and warn that if they do not they may be banned from the school premises. If after this behaviour continues, the parent/carer will again be written to and informed that a ban is now in place.

Note:

(1) a ban from the school can be introduced without having to go through all the steps offered above in more serious cases.

(2) Site bans will normally be limited in the first instance.

Issues of conduct with the use of Social Media:

Most people take part in online activities and social media. It's fun, interesting and keeps us connected.

Within these spaces however we ask that you use common sense when discussing school life online.

'Think before you post' We ask that social media, whether public or private, should not be used to fuel campaigns and voice complaints against the school, school staff, trustees, parents/carers or children.

We take very seriously inappropriate use of social media by a parent to publicly humiliate or criticise another parent, member of staff or child.

If parents have any concerns about their child in relation to the school as outlined above they should:

1. Initially contact the class teacher
2. If the concern remains they should contact the Headteacher
3. If still unresolved, the school trustees through the City of Rochester School Complaints Procedure

They should not use social media as a medium to air any concerns or grievances.

Online activity which we consider inappropriate:

- Identifying or posting images/videos of children
- Abusive or personal comments about staff, governors, children or other parents
- Bringing the school in disrepute
- Posting defamatory or libellous comments
- Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff or children
- Using social media to publicly challenge school policies or discuss issues about individual children or members of staff
- Threatening behaviour, such as verbally intimidating staff, or using bad language
- Breaching school security procedures

Telephony

All calls to and from MAGIC (UK) Ltd are recorded for training and monitoring purposes. These recordings will be used to, amongst other uses, help identify training needs for staff, ensure accurate and complete information is provided to service users and family and to help protect service users and staff.

I would also bring to your attention the following legislation that exists to protect our whole school community:

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974:

Employers have a legal duty under the HSW Act to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of their employees. This duty extends to risks arising from violence at work, or the risk of work related stress.

Communication Act 2003:

Section 127 cover the improper use of public electronic communications network, including:

A person is guilty of an offence if he/she:

- A: sends by any means of a public electronic communications network, a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character; or
- B: causes any such message or matter to be sent

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997:

Makes it a criminal offence for a person to pursue a course of conduct which may cause harassment, alarm or distress to another person

Malicious Communications Act 1988:

Sets out offences relating to sending indecent, offensive or threatening letters, electronic communications or articles with the intention of causing distress or anxiety to those receiving them

Equality Act 2010:

Defines specific protected characteristics and details a wider expansion of the aforementioned acts to encompass specifically:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020:

Parents/carers have a responsibility to ensure they respond to the basic emotional needs and ensure their child does not deliberately miss education.

I thank you in advance of your ongoing support of the school.

Alicja Emmett
Headteacher
September '20