Parental Behaviour Policy

At Barrowby Pre-School we are very fortunate to have a parent body which is supportive and friendly. We recognise that the success of the pre-school is dependent on a strong partnership between all members of the pre-school community: children, parents, staff and committee. This partnership must be based on a polite, positive and respectful relationship. For this reason, we continue to welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our pre-school. Any reference in this policy to a “Parent”, includes any parent, guardian, carer or other individual with “parental responsibility” (as defined in the Children Act 1989) for a child attending Barrowby Pre-School.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder about the expected conduct from our Parents and visitors. We ask that all members of the pre-school community follow these principles:

* We all respect the caring ethos of our pre-school.
* Both Parents and staff need to work together for the benefit of the children.
* All members of the pre-school community should be treated with respect and, therefore, we must all set a good example in our own speech and behaviour.

In this context, threatening, violent or abusive behaviour, against any members of our pre-school community, is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All members of our community have a right to expect the pre-school to be a safe place in which to work and learn. Where the behaviour of Parents or visitors falls below expected standards, the pre-school will take appropriate action.

**Parental conduct**

Parents are asked to communicate with each other and with other children, as well as all members of staff in a respectful and courteous manner; a manner in which they themselves would wish to be addressed.

**Parental access**

Normal permitted times on the premises are at drop-off in the morning (9:00) and at pick up (12:00 & 13:00 or 14:00 & 15:00) Access onto the pre-school property at any other time is by appointment only.

**Behavioural Incidents**

In order to support a peaceful and safe pre-school environment, the pre-school cannot accept Parents or visitors exhibiting the following:

* Conduct which undermines the safe and calm environment in the pre-school, either in the pre-school entrance, classroom, around the pre-school site, immediately outside the pre-school or anywhere the pre-school is being represented (sports and open days/pre-school journey/day trips etc.)
* Using loud or offensive language, such as swearing
* Displaying an unacceptable amount of anger and aggression.
* Threatening physical violence to a member of the pre-school community.
* Damaging pre-school or personal property.
* Abusive telephone calls, emails, letters or other forms of written communication.
* Defamatory comments about pre-school staff, committee or other Parents on social media sites.
* Sexual abuse
* Racial abuse
* The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment of one’s own child.
* Approaching someone else’s child in order to chastise them.
* Entering the pre-school premises without authorisation

Any example of such behaviour shall, for the purposes of this policy, constitute a “Behavioural Incident”. If any such incidents are reported by a Parent to the school, but haven’t been witnessed by a member of staff, evidence will be required to substantiate these claims.

**INAPPROPRIATE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA SITES**

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against pre-schools, pre-school staff, committee and in some cases other Parents/children.

The Senior Leadership Team & Committee of Barrowby Pre-School 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 pre-school community.

Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the Manager or the Committee so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any Parent 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 pre-school will also expect that any Parent removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the pre-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 Parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of pre-school bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

**PROCEDURES**

The pre-school has processes in place for dealing with Behavioural Incidents. Any Behavioural Incident will be reported to the Manager, and the appropriate procedures will be followed. This may include verbal warnings, written warnings and/ exclusion from the pre-school premises or the withdrawal of the child’s place.

At any stage, the pre-school may report serious incidents of abusive and threatening behaviour to the Police. The pre-school has a responsibility to ensure that any act of actual or threatened violence is referred to the Police immediately.