



# Ball Green Primary School

## Acceptable Behaviour Policy - Parents

### **Purpose:**

At Ball Green Primary School we pride ourselves on having a positive and supportive ethos so that all of our children are able to flourish in a calm, kind and respectful environment.

We know that all children learn primarily through imitation so it is all the more important that, as adults, we are constantly modelling the highest expectations for all our children to copy.

We have this ethos for the whole school and encourage parents and visitors to be part of our whole school community.

This policy outlines how we can work together to ensure that all members of the 'Ball Green Community' are able to feel safe and valued.

### **Open door policy:**

We have an open door policy where we welcome parents/visitors to come into school if they need to discuss any issues or concerns. For the benefit of the whole community we prefer to deal with any issues as quickly and effectively as possible. If relevant staff are unable to meet with parents/visitors we will make an appointment for a convenient time as quickly as possible. Please be aware that this may not be immediate.

### **Expectations of all parents/visitors while on school premises:**

As role models and for the safety and well-being of our children, their parents and our staff we expect parents/visitors to behave appropriately when on school premises.

### **We ask parents/visitors to treat children, other parents and staff:**

- ✓ In a manner they would like to be treated;
- ✓ In a calm and friendly way;
- ✓ With respect.

### **We expect that staff will treat parents/visitors:**

- ✓ In a manner they would like to be treated;
- ✓ In a calm, professional and friendly way;
- ✓ With respect.

**THE OVERALL EXPECTATION IS THAT ALL ADULTS BEHAVE APPROPRIATELY AND ACT AS ROLE MODELS WHILE ON SCHOOL PREMISES.**

**Every child. Every chance. Every day.**

*Article 28: Every child has the right to an education.*

*Article 29: Ball Green Primary School has a responsibility to develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.*



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If there are incidents where parents/visitors do not behave appropriately we will:

1. Discuss concerns with individuals and outline expectations;
2. Send a letter or organise a meeting with a senior member of staff setting out expectations;
3. If there are further concerns following Step 2, we will organise a meeting with the governing body with a view to issuing a Local Authority ban from the premises.

### **Serious disturbance and threatening or aggressive behaviour:**

It is an offence under **Section 547 of the Education Act 1997** for any person (including a parent/visitor) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. In the unlikely event of a serious disturbance or act of threatening or aggressive behaviour we will:

- ✓ Ask the parent to come somewhere quiet to discuss the issue;
- ✓ Outline expectations and request that the parent discusses the issue calmly so that it can be dealt with effectively;
- ✓ Report the incident to the Local Authority in line with policy and procedures;
- ✓ Remind the parent/visitor of this Acceptable Behaviour Policy and request that further concerns are discussed calmly and appropriately.

Where there are further incidents of aggressive and threatening behaviour we will:

Contact the police (if necessary) and pursue the incident under **Section 547 of the Education Act 1997**.

### **Some examples of inappropriate behaviour / unacceptable modelling to our children:**

- ✗ Being intentionally hostile and unfriendly;
- ✗ Verbal abuse, including swearing, spreading rumours, etc.;
- ✗ Unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments;
- ✗ Racial, homophobic or other discriminatory taunts or gestures;
- ✗ Cyber-incidents, such as e-mail and internet chat-room misuse, mobile threats by text messaging and calls, misuse of associated technologies, i.e. camera and video facilities;
- ✗ Using or being under the influence of illegal substances, including alcohol.

**[Please be aware that Ball Green is a No Smoking Site]**

### **Inappropriate use of social media:**

Social media websites can be misused to share inappropriate and malicious content against children, parents/carers, school staff and schools. Ball Green Primary School 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 Class Teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned. If a parent makes a comment online that is directly about or refers to an individual who may be easily identified, it may be **defamatory**. This could give rise to a claim for **libel**. If the comments are particularly abusive, and damage the reputation of the school, then Ball Green Primary School will contact the Police.

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In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated at Ball Green Primary 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. The Headteacher and Governing Body will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Instances of **deliberate public humiliation** and/or **defamation** by inappropriate social network entry will be taken seriously and investigated as such.

There are four UK statute laws related to the use of IT in relation to bullying which could apply in this situation. These are:

**The Protection from Harassment Act 1997** - this states that it is unlawful to cause harassment, alarm or distress by 'a course of conduct;'

**The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994** - this defines a criminal offence of intentional harassment, which covers all forms, including sexual harassment;

**The Malicious Communications Act 1998** - this states that it is an offence to send an indecent, offensive or threatening letter, electronic communication or other article to another person (*originally passed 1988; second impression 1998*)

**The Communications Act 2003** - under this act a person is guilty of an offence if he/she sends by means of a public electronic communications network a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character.

Additionally, if the comments are based on sexual, racial or religious grounds, **prosecution can be sought through anti-discriminatory laws.**

### **Conclusion:**

Ball Green Primary School is a positive and supportive school where all members of the community are valued. We are extremely grateful for the support and positive attitudes of all involved in making the community a success. We ask all parties to abide with the above in order to maintain a happy and safe environment for all. If you have a grievance about anything in this policy or about a specific incident that you have been involved with, please contact our Chair of Governors, at the school address.

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