

## **Policy on Managing Aggressive Behaviour from Parents and Visitors to our School**

"To live, love and learn, in a caring Christian community."

The Governing Body of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School encourages close partnerships with parents and our community. A close partnership between parents and school enables all parties to create the community of those who work together to ensure 'life in all its fullness' for its young people. It believes that pupils benefit when the relationship between home and school is a positive one.

All members of our Catholic community are expected to support and follow our school mission statement. To this end, our dealings with each other should reflect the words of our Lord, Jesus.

The vast majority of parents, carers and others visiting our school are keen to work with us and are supportive of the school. However, on the rare occasions when a negative attitude towards the school is expressed, this can result in aggression, verbal and or physical abuse towards members of school staff or the wider school community.

All staff have to live out our mission statement in dealings with all stakeholders. The governing body expects and requires its members of staff to behave professionally in these difficult situations and attempt to defuse the situation where possible, seeking the involvement as appropriate of other colleagues. However, all members of staff have the right to work without fear of violence and abuse, and the right, in an extreme case, of appropriate self defence.

All parents and visitors are expected to support and follow our mission statement when dealing with other adults, including members of staff, as well as our pupils. This policy outlines the steps that will be taken where behaviour is unacceptable.

Types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable and will not be tolerated:

- shouting at members of the school staff, either in person or over the telephone;
- physically intimidating a member of staff, eg standing very close to her/him;
- the use of aggressive hand gestures;
- threatening behaviour;
- shaking or holding a fist towards another person;
- swearing;
- pushing;
- hitting, eg slapping, punching and kicking;
- spitting;
- breaching the school's security procedures.

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour. Unacceptable behaviour may result in the local authority and the police being informed of the incident.

### **Procedure to be followed**

If a parent/carer behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of the school community, the head teacher or appropriate senior staff will seek to resolve the situation through discussion and mediation.

If necessary, the school's complaints procedures should be followed. Where all procedures have been exhausted, and aggression or intimidation continue, or where there is an extreme act of violence, a parent or carer may be banned by the head teacher from the school premises for a period of time, subject to review.

In imposing a ban the following steps will be taken:

1. The parent/carer will be informed, in writing, that she/he is banned from the premises, subject to review, and what will happen if the ban is breached, eg that police involvement or an injunction application may follow

2. Where an assault has led to a ban, a statement indicating that the matter has been reported to the local authority and the police will be included
3. The chair of governors/LA will be informed of the ban
4. Where appropriate, arrangements for pupils being delivered to, and collected from the school gate will be clarified.

## **Conclusion**

All members of our school community are charged with living out our mission statement as role models for our pupils. The Governing Body may take action where behaviour is unacceptable or there are serious breaches of our home-school code of conduct or health and safety legislation. In implementing this policy, the school will, as appropriate, seek advice from the Local Authority's education, health and safety and legal departments, to ensure fairness and consistency.

## **Appendix 1 – Incident Report Form**

### **Incident report form**

Relevant incidents include trespass, nuisance or disturbance on school premises, verbal abuse, sexual or racial abuse, threats, aggression, physical violence and intentional damage to property.

Where possible, the form should be completed before any discussion between witnesses is possible, as this might lead to allegations of collusion.

This form should be completed as fully as possible please, using a continuation sheet, if necessary. For any incident involving or witnessed by a pupil or parent/carer/visitor, a member of staff should complete the form on their behalf.

The completed form should be passed to the head teacher, for appropriate action and recording.

**Date of incident**

**Time of incident**

**Name of person reporting incident**

**Date incident reported**

**Member of staff recording incident**

**Date incident recorded**

**Name(s) of person(s) causing incident**

(where name(s) is/are unknown, provide other details of which may allow their identification) Status(es) (parents/carers/visitors/trespassers)

**Full description of incident** (e.g. names of persons involved; location; nature of any injuries; attendance of emergency services)

**Names of any witnesses**

**Statuses**

**Initial action/outcome** (e.g. Informal conciliation; police intervention; warning or banning letter issued)

**Summary of subsequent actions taken by the school, including risk assessments**

**Linked incidents** (if any)

## Appendix 2- Letters

### **Warning letter, from the head teacher: to parent/carer with child/ren at the school**

Recorded delivery

Dear ..... I have received a report about your conduct at the school on **(enter date and time)**.

**(Add factual summary of the incident and of its effect on staff, pupils, other parents.)**

I must inform you that the local authority/ governing body (delete as appropriate) will not tolerate conduct of this nature on its premises and will act to protect its staff and pupils.

Therefore if, in the future, I receive any reports of conduct of this nature I will be forced to consider removing your licence to enter the school grounds and buildings. If you do not comply with that instruction I will be able to arrange for you to be removed from the premises and prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted under this section, you are liable to a fine of up to £500.

Nevertheless, I wish to give you an opportunity to give me in writing any comments or observations of your own in relation to the report which I have received about your conduct. These comments may include any expressions of regret on your part and any assurances you are prepared to give about your future good conduct. To enable me to take a decision on this matter at an early point, you are asked to send me any written comments you wish to make by **(state date ten working days from the date of letter)**.

Yours sincerely,

Head Teacher

**Banning Letter, from the LA or governing body: to parent/carer with child/ren at the school**

Recorded delivery

Dear ..... I have received a report from the head teacher at (insert name) School about your conduct on **(enter date and time)**.

**(Add factual summary of the incident and of its effect on staff, pupils, other parents.)**

I must inform you that the local authority/ governing body (delete as appropriate) will not tolerate conduct of this nature on its premises and will act to protect its staff and pupils. On the advice of the head teacher I am therefore instructing that until ..... **(add date)** you are not to reappear on the premises of the school. If you do not comply with this instruction I may arrange for you to be removed from the premises and prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted under this section, you are liable to a fine of up to £500.

**In the case of a primary school include:** For the duration of this decision you may bring your son(s)/daughter(s) (complete as appropriate) to school and collect them/him/her (delete as appropriate) at the end of the school day, but you must not go beyond the school gate.

**In the case of infant children, also insert** Arrangements have been made for your (delete as appropriate) son(s)/daughter(s) (insert child/rens names) to be collected, and returned to you, at the school gate by a member of the school's staff.

The withdrawal of permission for you to enter the school premises takes effect straightaway. However, I still need to decide whether it is appropriate to confirm this decision. Before I do so, I wish to give you an opportunity to give me in writing any comments or observations of your own in relation to the report which I have received from the head teacher. These comments may include any expressions of regret on your part and any assurances you are prepared to give about your future good conduct. To enable me to take a decision on this matter at an early point, you are asked to send me any written comments you wish to make by **(state date ten working days from the date of letter)**.

If on receipt of your comments I consider that my decision should be confirmed, or extended, you will be supplied with details of how to pursue a review of the circumstances of your case. In any event, the decision to withdraw your licence to enter the school premises will be reviewed by ..... **(complete as appropriate)**. That review will take account of any representations that you may have made and of your subsequent conduct.

Yours sincerely,

Head Teacher



**Banning Letter, from the LA or governing body: to member of the public**

Recorded delivery

Dear ..... I have received a report from the head teacher at **(insert name)** school about your conduct on **(enter date and time)**.

**(Add factual summary of the incident and of its effect on staff, pupils, other parents.)**

I must inform you that the authority/ governing body **(delete as appropriate)** will not tolerate conduct of this nature on its premises and will act to protect its staff and pupils. On the advice of the head teacher I am therefore instructing that you are not to reappear on the premises of the school. If you do not comply with this instruction I may arrange for you to be removed from the premises and prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted, you are liable to a fine of up to £500.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of governing body

**Letter updating a banning letter, from the LA or governing body, confirming ban: to parent/carer with child/ren at the school**

Recorded delivery

Dear .....

On **(give date)** I wrote to you informing you that on the advice of the head teacher, I had withdrawn permission for you to come onto the premises of **(insert name)** School until ..... **(insert date)**. To enable the local governing body to determine whether to confirm this decision, or to impose it for a longer period, I gave you the opportunity to give your written comments on the incident concerned by **(give date)**.

I have not received a written response from you / I have now received a letter from you dated ..... **(insert the date)**, the contents of which I have noted. **(delete either sentence as appropriate)**

In the circumstances, and after further consideration of the head teacher's report, I have determined that the decision to withdraw permission for you to come onto school premises should be confirmed/extended. **(delete as appropriate)** I am therefore instructing that until ..... **(insert date)** you are not to come onto the premises of the school without the prior knowledge and approval of the head teacher. If you do not comply with this instruction I may arrange for you to be removed from the premises and prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted, you are liable to a fine of up to £500.

Notwithstanding this decision the head teacher and staff at **(insert name)** school remain committed to the education of your child/children **(delete as appropriate)**, who must continue to attend school as normal insert in the case of a primary school: under the arrangements set out in my previous letter.

The governing body will take steps to review the continuance of this decision by (give date). When deciding whether it is necessary to extend the withdrawal of permission to come onto the school's premises, the governing body will take into account the extent of your compliance with the decision, any appropriate expressions of regret and assurances of future good conduct received from yourself and any evidence of your co-operation with the school in other respects. **(Include where the incident has arisen within the context of a parental complaint against the school:)**

Finally I would advise you that I have asked the head teacher to ensure that your complaint **(give brief details)** is considered under the appropriate school procedure. You will be contacted about this by the school in due course.

If you wish to pursue the matter further, you have a right to a review of the circumstances of this case by the school's governing body.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of governing body

**Letter updating a banning letter, from the LA or governing body, withdrawing ban: to parent/carer with child/ren at the school**

Recorded delivery

Dear .....

On ..... **(insert date)** I wrote to you informing you that, on the advice of the head teacher, I had temporarily withdrawn permission for you to come onto the premises of **(insert name)** School. To enable me to determine whether to confirm this decision for a longer period, I gave you the opportunity to let me have your written comments on this incident by ..... **(insert date)**

I have not received a written response from you / I have now received a letter from you dated ..... **(insert date)**, the contents of which I have noted. **(delete either sentence as appropriate)**

In the circumstances, and after consulting with the head teacher, I have decided that it is not necessary to confirm the decision, and I am therefore restoring to you the permission to come onto the school premises, with immediate effect.

Nevertheless I remain very concerned at the incident which occurred on ..... **(insert date)**, and I must warn you that if there is any repetition of your behaviour on that occasion, I shall not hesitate to withdraw permission for you to come onto the premises.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of governing body

**Letter, from the LA or governing body, following formal review of a banning letter, extending ban: to parent/carer with child/ren at the school**

Recorded delivery

Dear .....

I wrote to you on ..... **(insert date)** withdrawing permission for you to come onto the premises of **(insert name)** School until ..... **(insert date)**. In that letter I also advised you that I would take steps to review this decision by ..... **(insert date)**.

I have now completed the review. However, after consultation with the head teacher, I have determined that it is not yet appropriate for me to withdraw my decision. **(Give a brief summary of reasons)**

I therefore advise that the instruction that you are not to come onto the premises of **(insert name)** school without the prior knowledge and approval of the head teacher remains in place until ..... **(insert date)**.

I shall undertake a further review of this decision on ..... **(insert date)**.

**(Insert if the letter is from the governing body)** If you are dissatisfied with this decision, you have a right to request a review of the decision by the governing body.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of governing body

**Letter, from the LA or governing body, following formal review of a banning letter, ending ban: to parent/carer with child/ren at the school**

Recorded delivery

Dear .....

I wrote to you on ..... **(insert date)** informing you that I had withdrawn permission for you to come onto the premises of **(insert name)** School until ..... **(insert date)**. In that letter I also advised you that I would take steps to review this decision by ..... **(insert date)**.

I have now completed the review. After consultation with the head teacher, I have decided that it is now appropriate to change that decision and I am therefore restoring to you the permission to come onto the school premises, with immediate effect.

I trust that you can now be relied upon to act in full co-operation with the school and that there will be no further difficulties of the kind which made it necessary for me to prevent you entering the premises.

I should point out that if there is any repetition of your behaviour, I shall not hesitate to withdraw permission for you to come onto the premises once more.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of governing body

