



# Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School

## Parental Code of Conduct

Date Reviewed: Autumn 2024  
Reviewed by: Governing Body  
Next Planned Review: Autumn 2026

## **Safeguarding Statement**

At Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

## 1. Aims

At Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School, we believe it's important to:

- › Work in partnership with parents to support their child's learning
- › Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and parents
- › Model appropriate behaviour for our pupils at all times

To help us do this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community. This includes staff (through the staff code of conduct), pupils (through our behaviour policy) and parents (through this parental code of conduct).

This code of conduct aims to help the school work together with parents by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

- › Anyone with parental responsibility for a pupil
- › Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or child-minders)

## 2. Our expectations of parents and carers

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- › Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school
- › Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils
- › Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech and behaviour
- › Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- › Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct
- › Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern
- › Respect all staff, parents and children and ensure that none of them are the victims of abusive behaviour either in person or online

## 3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated

- › Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches)
- › Swearing, or using offensive language
- › 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 could be seen as an assault on that child and may have legal consequences)
- › Displaying a temper, speaking in an aggressive/threatening tone or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- › Threatening another member of the school community
- › Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media
- › Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms (Appendix 1)
- › Use of physical punishment against your child while on school premises

- Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult
- Disciplining another person's child – please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention
- Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs)
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Racist, homophobic, transphobic or sexist comments

#### 4. Breaching the code of conduct

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the parent about the incident.

Depending on the nature of the incident, the school may then:

- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent in to school to meet with the Head of Campus or the Headteacher
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from the local authority's legal team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the parent from the school site\*

The school will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the headteacher.

The headteacher will consult the chair of governors before banning a parent from the school site.

*\*School premises are private property and parents have been granted permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, school may ban parents from entering school. It is also an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1997 for any person (including a parent) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist in removing the person concerned. The school is not responsible for organising arrangements for children in the above circumstances. Parents will need to provide alternative arrangements for bringing children into school. Parents have the right of appeal in line with the school complaints procedures*

## Appendix 1:

### Inappropriate use of Social Networking Sites

Social Media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints about schools, headteachers, school staff and in some cases parents and pupils.

The Department for Education/ Government and Governors of Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School consider the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable. Any concerns you may have about the school or your child/children must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, one of the co headteachers or the Chair of Governors, where they will be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

### Libellous or Defamatory Posts

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/children at Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social networking sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site. All social networking sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the sit and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

### Cyber Bullying

We take very seriously the use of cyber bullying by one child or a parents to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying.

The school will also consider its **legal options** to deal with any such misuse on social networking and other sites.