



**THE  
WOLDS & VALE  
FEDERATION**



# **Parental Code of Conduct**

**September 2023**

### **Aims of this Policy**

The Wolds and Vale Federation is dedicated to ensuring that all students achieve their potential and will work in partnership with all stakeholders to achieve these aims. The Federation is therefore required to have a policy to address parental/carer's behaviour that is unacceptable and has a detrimental effect on the good order, and safety of the Federation. The Federation has a duty of care for both staff and students to ensure their safety and well being. This policy will outline the behaviours that are unacceptable to the Federation and what sanctions are available to deal with the behaviour.

This policy should be read in conjunction the Parental Complaints Policy as the Federation expects all parental complaints to be taken seriously and to be dealt with comprehensively and as far as possible in confidence. The Federation's complaints policy allows parents' complaints about academy issues to be dealt with efficiently and sensitively, and at the appropriate level.

### **The Scope and Application of this Policy**

The policy aims to ensure that the following behaviours demonstrated by parents will be dealt with by the Federation:

- offensive language or malicious comments
- unwarranted and unnecessary correspondence taking up undue teaching and administrative time,
- intimidation
- disruptive behaviour
- racist conduct
- incitement of others and threats or risk of injury

This policy does not affect the right of parents/carers or other parties to make complaints to the Federation.

### **Key principles**

- The education of the children of the parent involved will not be compromised in any way;
- Clear documentary evidence is kept of any correspondence, action or decisions for a period of at least 12 months;
- The Federation will fully investigate all valid concerns;

- Any decisions will be fully communicated to the parent;
- Any parent behaving unlawfully will be reported to the police.

## **Procedures**

The Federation has a range of strategies to employ with any parent who persists with unacceptable conduct. Whilst these sanctions are set out in the policy by way of a sequential process, they can be initiated at any stage if, in the reasonable judgement of the Headteacher or Chair of the Governing Body, the severity of the behaviour warrants such a level of intervention.

### Verbal Warning/Mediation Meeting

A parent who displays any of the behaviour as described above will be asked politely to desist and offered the opportunity to discuss the matter in person on the first occasion.

### Two Formal Written Warnings

A formal written letter will be sent to the parent where they continue to act unacceptably. This is signed by the Headteacher and circulated to relevant internal parties to ensure that an informed and consistent approach can be adopted. This letter is kept on the file of any student at the school for a period of twelve months. Should a further incident occur, a second formal written warning should be issued.

### Legal Sanctions

If a parent breaches the expected standard of behaviour as set out in the Parental Code of Conduct despite formal written warnings, then the Federation may consider the following the sanctions listed below. These will usually only be used in extreme circumstances e.g. if a parent continues to exhibit conduct in breach of this policy or has committed a serious breach of this policy.

A – The Federation may ban the parent from the Federation premises for a specified period, subject to regular review by the Federation and their legal team.

Any entry onto the site in contravention of such a ban and where a nuisance is caused would be a criminal offence under section 547 Education Act 1996 and you will be removed from the premises by the Police or an authorised member of staff.

B - An injunction under the Protection from Harassment Act

The Federation may seek an injunction requiring them to desist from behaving in the manner in question. The Federation will seek an injunction against the parent's conduct under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

#### **C - Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO)**

The Federation may seek an ASBO. The Court will have the ability to grant an ASBO which would prohibit the parent from pursuing a certain course of action.

#### **Responsibilities:**

##### **1. Governing Body:**

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- approving the Federation policy, procedures, and guidelines;
- receiving reports; and any necessary documentation
- advising the Headteacher
- reviewing bans from the Federation site

The Governing Body will monitor the level and nature of reports and review the outcomes annually or earlier if so determined by the Chair.

##### **The Chair of the Governing Body is responsible for:**

- monitoring the good order and safety of the Federation
- checking that the correct procedure is followed.

##### **The Headteacher is responsible for:**

- the overall internal management of the procedures;
- ensuring that the procedures are monitored and reviewed and reports made to the Governing Body
- authorising staff to remove parents from the school site

##### **The Parental Code of Conduct Co-ordinator is responsible for:**

- the efficient operation and management of the policy and procedures;
- training staff on how to deal appropriately with difficult parents;
- keeping parents, students and others informed of the procedures;
- compiling reports for the Headteacher as required.

## **Information for Parents**

The Federation will advise parents of this Parental Code of Conduct. This Parental Code of Conduct policy is available via the Federation's website or directly from the Federation.

## **Equal Opportunities**

In implementing this policy the Governing Body, Headteacher and staff must take account of the Federation's Equal Opportunities policy.

## **Monitoring and Review**

The Headteacher will report to staff from time to time, and to the Governing Body annually or earlier if the Chair so determines, on the number and type of incidents and behaviours displayed by parents received and their outcomes.

This policy will be reviewed every three years.