PARENTAL CHARTER

Introduction

At Willaston Church of England Primary School, we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents and carers recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the wider school community.

As a partnership, our parents and carers will understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage you all to participate fully in the life of our school.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this guidance is to provide a point of reference to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about the expected standards of conduct. This is so we can continue underpin our values and school vision to 'treat others as you want them to treat you', to maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.

Guidance

We expect parents, carers and visitors to our school to:

- Respect the caring ethos and values of our school.
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of the children.
- Demonstrate that all members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school, in order to bring about a satisfactory solution to any issue.
- Correct their own child's behaviour, especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour.
- Openly approach the school to help resolve any school related issues of concern using our agreed protocols.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, an employee's office, office area or any other area of the school grounds including team matches.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Threatening to commit actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or student regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the students/parent/staff, at the school on any social media sites (Appendix 1).
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of the child towards their own child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal/safeguarding consequences).
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property.

Should any of the above behaviour occur on school premises the school may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and if necessary, even prohibit the individual from entering the school grounds.

Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately, and effectively for all parties. This may require escalation through our schools' complaints policy, if necessary, although we would always wish to seek to resolve an issue at the earliest opportunity and informally where feasible.

We trust and thank that you as parents and carers will assist our school with the upholding of this policy and we thank you for your continuing support of the school.

This Parental Charter has been issued with the directive of the Head of Education and Inclusion, for adoption, by all maintained schools in Cheshire West and Chester.

Appendix 1: Inappropriate use of Social Media

Social media is defined as any interactive media technology that facilitates the creation of sharing of information, ideas, interests, and other forms of expression through virtual communities and networks.

Well known examples include Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, TikTok, WhatsApp, LinkedIn, and Instagram as well as blog sites, on-line encyclopaedias such as Wikipedia; and video / image sharing websites such as YouTube and Flickr, but this list is not limited or exhaustive.

Social media sites/applications are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/students.

The Governors consider the use of social media/posts being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the 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.

In the event that any student or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in the school is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or in any other social media forums, 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 school will also expect that any parent/carer or student removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the 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 one child or a parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.
We would expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

Persons Causing Nuisance / Disturbance on School Premises
Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. School premises are private property and parents have been granted permission by 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 1996 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. 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.