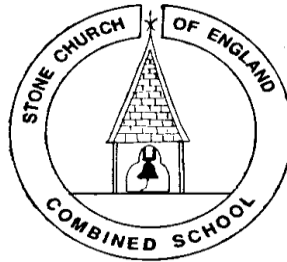


Stone Church of England Combined School



Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors

This policy was adopted on Summer 2022

The policy is to be reviewed by Summer 2025

Aims

The school aims to encourage all members of the school community to work together in the best interests of the children.

The school vision is:

‘Love one another as I have loved you’ (John 13: 34-35)

helping each other to reach for the stars.

The whole community aspire to fulfil this vision through our Christian values of community, perseverance, honesty, compassion, respect and responsibility each being a ‘stepping stone’ to success.

This policy aims to clarify how parents/carers and visitors conduct themselves whilst on school premises or when interacting with members of the school community.

At Stone C of E Combined School we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community. As a partnership our parents 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 parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about the expected conduct. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.

Guidance

As well as following the guidance set out in our Home-School Agreement, we expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the Christian ethos of our school.
- Follow and support school policy and procedures
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their 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’s view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct their own child’s behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues or concern.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children’s behaviour.
- Speak to school staff about concerns or complaints rather than posting on social media/group chats, including WhatsApp
- Use social media including group chats in a positive way to support the school and other parents

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents, carers or 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.
- Shouting at members of staff, parents, governors or children either in person or over the phone
- Using offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Physically intimidating members of staff, parents or children e.g. standing very close to her/him
- Threatening (verbally or physically) to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, 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.
- Posting comments about pupils or school staff, including governors or defamation of the school or staff's character, on Facebook or other social media sites including group chats such as WhatsApp.
- The use of verbal or physical aggression or conflict towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to question or chastise them because of their actions towards their own child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Spitting
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or transgender comments
- Smoking or use of drugs on the school premises.
- Consumption of alcohol on the school site except at approved school events
- Cycling/scooting etc on school premises.
- Dogs being brought on to school premises.
- 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.

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION GUIDANCE

Sometimes aggressive or abusive behaviour from a parent can present a risk to staff and children. School premises are private property and parents will generally have permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in cases of abuse, harassment or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, schools may ban parents/carers from entering the school.

It is also an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1997 for any person (including a parent) who is not permitted to be on the school grounds to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist the school in removing a parent but local authorities and governing bodies may also authorise a person to remove a person if they have reasonable cause to believe that the person is causing a nuisance or a disturbance.

Procedure

If a parent/carer/visitor is intimidating, threatening or aggressive towards any member of the school community any interaction will be terminated immediately and the person will be instructed to leave the premises. Further action may be taken by the school.

1. The school may in the first instance warn the parent that they are minded to ban them and seek reassurance about future behaviour. If reassurance is not forthcoming, then the school will proceed as in 2 below including details of how long the ban will last. Depending on the severity of the offence, the school may impose an immediate ban as in 2 below – this is at the school discretion.
2. 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, e.g. that police involvement or an injunction application may follow.
3. 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.
4. Where appropriate, arrangements for pupils being delivered to, and collected from the school gate will be clarified.
5. The school may put in restrictions on how the parent and the school communicate.