

# SHERBORNE AREA SCHOOLS' TRUST



## SAST Parent and Visitor Code of Conduct

Published:	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2019
Review due:	Sept 2021
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# SAST Parent and Visitor Code of Conduct



All of the schools in the Trust share four key values: partnership and collaboration, the pursuit of excellence, promoting holistic lifelong learning and recognising equality and distinctiveness. The Trustees of the Sherborne Area Schools' Trust (SAST) have a legal duty under section 175/157 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils by creating and maintaining a safe learning environment.

We encourage positive relationships, communication and partnerships with our parents and the community. We work hard to maintain a mutual respect through our shared responsibility for the education of our children. The code of conduct for parents and visitors to school emphasises promoting good manners, dignity and mutual respect for school staff and children. This includes respect for school property, other visitors and children.

## **The school expects parents/carers and visitors to respect the caring ethos of the school by**

- Understanding that parents and teachers need to work together for the benefit of children
- Demonstrating in their own behaviour that all members of the school community should be treated with respect
- Being polite in all communications
- Seeking to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue
- Correcting their own child's behaviour, especially where it could lead to conflict
- Approaching school staff to help resolve issues
- Avoiding using staff as threats to admonish children
- Using the school site safely by observing designated walkways and parking restrictions

## **In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school does not tolerate:**

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, office or other area of school grounds
- Loud or offensive language, swearing, cursing or displaying temper
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, governor, visitor, parent/carer or pupil
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Sending abusive or threatening emails, text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- The inappropriate use of cameras/mobiles for recording purposes
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff at the school on Facebook or other social media sites
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physically punishing your own child on school premises - the school does not tolerate the use of physical aggression towards another adult or child
- Chastising someone else's child
- Smoking, or consuming alcohol or drugs whilst on school property
- Non-therapy dogs brought onto school premises.

Abusive or aggressive behaviour towards staff, other parents or visitors will not be tolerated. If a member of SAST staff feels they have been spoken or engaged with inappropriately, rudely or aggressively they may refer the matter to the Headteacher. If the matter cannot be resolved satisfactorily, visitors will be asked to leave the school site and security services including the Police may be contacted. Permission to be on the school premises may be withdrawn in line with DFE guidance. This states that "Schools can bar someone from the premises if they feel that their aggressive, abusive or insulting behaviour or language is a risk to staff or pupils. It's enough for a member of staff or a pupil to feel threatened."

**We trust that parents/carers and visitors will assist our school by abiding by the guidance and we thank you for your continuing support of the school.**

If any member of the public wishes to raise a concern or complaint about any aspect of the operation of the Trust, the school or its staff, please ask for a copy of the SAST Complaints Procedure which can also be found on the SAST website – [www.sast.org.uk](http://www.sast.org.uk).

## **Appendix 1 - Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites**

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. ThenTrust considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community.

In the event that any pupil or parent of a child being educated at a Trust is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, 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 content or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent or pupil 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 aim to resolve your concerns amicably however if you do have any concerns please contact the class teacher in the first instance. If the matter remains unresolved it will be dealt with by the Headteacher, the Chair of the LGB or the Trustees if necessary, so it can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.