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**PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

**POLICY**

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| **Responsibility of:**  **Date ratified by BOG:**  **Review Date:** | Mrs E. Woodin (Principal)  December 2020  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

***UNCRC Article 3 All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child. June 2020***

**Maine Integrated Primary School**

**Parent Code of Conduct Policy**

At Maine Integrated Primary 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 understand the importance of developing a good working relationship so that together we can 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 clarity to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about expected conduct so that as a community we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

**Rules and Expectations of Parents/Carers**

**Behaviour and Actions**

**We expect parents, carers and visitors to:**

* Follow the school’s signing in and out procedures for visitors.
* Respect the caring ethos of our school.
* Respect school staff and 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.
* Ensure that their child knows how to behave in school and towards others. 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 seek information in order to help resolve any issues of concern.
* Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children’s behaviour.
* In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment for all, the school WILL NOT 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 or at school events such as football matches or sports events.
* Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
* Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
* Damaging or destroying deliberately school property.
* Sending abusive or threatening e-mails or voicemail/phone messages or other written communication.
* Making defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff/governors at the school via any electronic means, including email, on Facebook or other social sites. (See Appendix 1).
* Approaching other adults on school grounds to fuel campaigns and complaints against the school.
* Using physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment of their own child on school premises.
* Approaching someone else’s child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions (real or perceived) of this 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 consequences.*
* Smoking or consuming alcohol at school events or on school premises.
* Spitting or discarding chewing gum on school premises.
* Questioning decisions made by the school in front of the children.

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, will ban the offending adult from entering the school grounds.

Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels, which includes the school Complaints Procedure, a copy of which is available from the school office.  
  
You should, in the first instance, make an appointment to speak to your child’s class teacher. If you are not happy with the outcome, you may speak to the Vice-Principal, the Principal or write to the Chair of Governors, so that concerns can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

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

**Appendix 1**

**Inappropriate use of Social Network Site**

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Head Teachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. The Governors of Maine Integrated Primary School consider 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. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, Vice-Principal, Principal or writing to the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren belonging to Maine Integrated Primary School 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 any activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/carer 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 would expect that parents/carers would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

**Appendix 2**

Additional procedures in place due to COVID-19.

It is anticipated that, in line with government directives regarding phasing back to school from September 2020, additional procedures will be in place to which parents and visitors to the school will be adhere at all times.

These will include:

Restrictions on adults entering the school building;

* Procedures for children entering and leaving the buildings e.g. staggered times, specific doors in use;
* Observing a one-way system in, out and around the school;
* Observing the need for social distancing within the school grounds;
* Communicating with staff via phone and/or email; and,
* Making an appointment if a face to face interview is required.

The full risk assessment will be made available to parents so that they are fully aware of procedures and the reasoning behind them.