Education Development Trust

Transforming lives by improving education around the world

ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL

A member of the Education Development Trust UK Independent Schools

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

St. Andrew's School has a supportive and friendly parent body. As a school we recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, school staff and the school community, and we ask that parents work with us in that respect.

As a partnership, we understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood and so we welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

The purpose of this document is to provide an outline to all parents/carers about how we can work together effectively as a partnership, with due regard to the principles of mutual respect and reasonable conduct, and to set out what we can expect of one another.

As well as following the guidance set out in our St. Andrew's Home School Agreement we ask parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect and model the caring ethos of our school whenever on school premises or when communicating directly with the school
- Understand that school staff and parents need to work together for the benefit of all
- Demonstrate that all members of the school community should be treated with tolerance and respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech, conduct and behaviour
- Correct their own child's behaviour appropriately whilst on the school premises, especially where it could lead to conflict or unsafe 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
- Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues or concern.

In order to maximise your child's potential whilst at St. Andrew's, we ask parents/carers to:

- Promptly respond to any requests
- Be actively engaged in their child's learning
- Attend annual parents' evenings
- Be available, if required, for any educational discussions

Just as we would not accept inappropriate behaviour from our staff, so too would we find it unacceptable for parents or visitors to exhibit the same behaviour. Please see below for examples of the type of behaviour that would be deemed inappropriate.

- Using loud/offensive, or disrespectful language, or displaying bad temper on site, or within the school vicinity.
- The use of physical, or verbal aggression towards another adult or child.
- Damaging or destroying school property or the property of another person, whilst on the school premises.
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication to school staff, or pupils.
- Offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff, at the school on Facebook, WhatsApp or other social sites. Any concerns you may have about the school should be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Assistant Principals or Principal, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- Approaching someone else's child, in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own, should always be avoided and will always be viewed as unacceptable.
- Smoking (including vaping) whilst on school property.

In such instances, this inappropriate behaviour could lead to proportionate actions being taken. Please see below for further details.

- In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is considered to be a serious and potentially criminal matter, the concerns will in the first instance be referred to the Police. This will include any or all cases of threats or violence and actual violence to any child or staff member. This will also include anything that could be seen as a sign of harassment of any member of the school community, such as any form of threatening, or libellous social media post or any form of social media cyber bullying. Should a parent have any concerns regarding a member of staff, please desist from expressing this opinion on social media but rather discuss any issues with the Principal, or a member of SLT, so that the matter can be resolved. If the issue relates to the Principal please contact the Head of Independent schools, via Education Development Trust's Head Office.
- In cases where evidence suggests that behaviour would be tantamount to libel or slander, then the school will refer the matter to the Education Development Trust Legal Team and where a possible crime has been committed, the Police, for further action.
- In cases where the code of conduct has been broken but the breach was not libellous, slanderous or a criminal matter, then the parent will be invited to attend a meeting to resolve the issue but where a constructive solution cannot be reached and the school considers the parents actions to be unacceptable, the school reserves the right to issue a formal warning.
- If the code of conduct continues to be broken, the school will have no option but to impose sanctions which could include banning the parent from the school premises or as a last resort permanently excluding their child, in line with our exclusions policy on the grounds of "breakdown of the relationship with the parent". Clearly this is a situation which everyone wishes to avoid.

The school values immensely the positive relationship that it has with parents and consider it unlikely that we will ever have to implement the above sanctions. We trust that parents and carers will assist our school with the implementation of this policy, so that collectively we can do our utmost to ensure that we lead by example and create an environment for your children, which is based on mutual respect. The staff of St. Andrew's would like to thank you for your continuing support of the school.