



# **FALCONHURST SCHOOL**

## **MANAGING ABUSIVE and/or ANTI-SOCIAL VISITORS, PARENTS OR CARERS TO THE SCHOOL POLICY**

**Reported to Governors: Summer 2022**

**Scheduled Review Date: Summer 2026**

## Contents

Statement of principles.....	2
Behaviour.....	2
Procedure to be followed .....	3
Conclusion.....	3

## Statement of principles

The ethos of Falconhurst School encourages close links with parents and the community. The staff and governors believe that pupils benefit when the relationship between home and school is a positive one.

The vast majority of parents, carers and others visiting our school are keen to work with us and are supportive of the school. However, on the rare occasions when a negative attitude towards the school is expressed, this can result in aggression, verbal and or physical abuse towards members of school staff or the wider school community.

The governing board expects and requires its members of staff to behave professionally in these difficult situations and attempt to defuse the situation where possible, seeking the involvement as appropriate of other colleagues. However, all members of staff have the right to work without fear of violence and abuse, and the right, in an extreme case, of appropriate self-defence. We expect parents and other visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards members of school staff. This policy outlines the steps that will be taken where behaviour is unacceptable.

## Behaviour

Types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable and will not be tolerated:

- shouting at members of the school staff, parents or children either in person or over the telephone;
- physically intimidating a member of staff, parent or child eg standing very close to her/him;
- the use of aggressive hand gestures;
- threatening behaviour;
- shaking or holding a fist towards another person;
- swearing;
- using abusive/ offensive language
- pushing;
- hitting, e.g. slapping, punching and kicking;
- spitting;
- racist, sexist, homophobic or transgender comments;

- breaching the school's security procedures.

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour.

## **Procedure to be followed**

If a parent/carer or visitor behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of the school community, the Headteacher or appropriate senior staff will seek to resolve the situation through discussion. If the unacceptable behaviour continues, staff will terminate the meeting and ask the visitor to leave the premises. In the event of the conduct being recurrent in nature or significantly distressing, a formal warning of a ban from the school site will be issued.

Where all procedures have been exhausted, a warning has been issued and aggression or intimidation continues; or where there is an extreme act of violence, a parent or carer may be banned by the Headteacher or Chair of Governors from the school premises for a period of time, subject to review as defined in section 547 of the Education Act (1996).

In imposing a ban, the following steps will be taken:

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.
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.

## **Conclusion**

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, including a ban from the school premise, may be taken by the school. Actions of abusive visitors or parents will also include sharing information with the Police and our safeguarding partner upon request.