

Decoy Community Primary School

Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and Visitors



This Code of Conduct is an unsigned agreement between the parents, carers, visitors and Decoy Community Primary School and First Steps Nursery.

At Decoy, we value the importance of our supportive and inclusive school community. We work in partnership with staff, governors, parents, carers and other members of the community to ensure all children receive a high-class education in a safe and nurturing environment. We develop strong and productive working relationships and understand the importance of these relationships in equipping our children with the necessary skills for their education.

- **WE EXPECT** our school community to respect our school ethos, care for our school and set a good example for behaviour on school premises (including the immediate vicinity of the school) and when accompanying classes on school visits.
- **WE EXPECT** our school community to keep our children safe by adhering to the school's request to drive and park carefully around the school area; ensuring that local residents and other road users are treated with respect and consideration.
- **WE EXPECT** our parents and carers to work in partnership with the school by reading emails and ClassDojo messages, keeping medical/contact information up to date and following school policies.
- **WE EXPECT** our school community to put their mobile phones away when they enter the school site. Phones may only be used on school site when permission has been provided by the school for photographs and videos at school events. Any urgent calls should be taken outside the school site.

Behaviour that will not be tolerated:

- Inappropriate or disruptive behaviour, which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's normal operation or activities anywhere on the school premises.
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper, whilst on or around the school site. Should this behaviour occur, you will be asked to leave and may consequently have restricted access arrangements put in place.

- Threatening a member of staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or child.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Sending abusive/threatening emails, text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications (including social media) to school staff or PTA members.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school on social media sites. *
- The use of physical, verbal or written aggression towards another adult or child.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child or others. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences.)
- Smoking, vaping, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises. Alcohol may be consumed during authorised events e.g. Decoyfest.

What happens if someone ignores or breaks the code?

If the school becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and contact the parent about the incident. Depending on the nature of the incident, the school may then:

- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent into school to meet with a senior member of staff or the headteacher
- Seek advice from Devon Local Authority's Legal Services Team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Set boundaries and limitations for future communications
- Ban the parent from the school site (The headteacher will consult the chair of governors before banning a parent from the school site)
- Contact the police or appropriate authorities if appropriate

The school will always respond to an incident in a proportional way.

Issues of conduct with the use of Social Media

Most people take part in online activities and social media. It is fun, interesting and keeps us connected when used safely.

Online activity which we consider inappropriate:

- Making comments that identify a child or posting images/videos of children.
- Abusive or personal comments about staff, governors, children or other parents
- Bringing the school into disrepute
- Posting defamatory or libellous comments
- Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff or children
- Using social media to publicly challenge school policies or discuss issues about individual children or members of staff
- Threatening behaviour, such as verbally intimidating staff, or using bad language
- Breaching school security procedures

At Decoy, we take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously and will deal with any reported incidents appropriately in line with the actions outlined above.

WhatsApp groups

Many parents set up class WhatsApp groups in order to share information. These groups are not affiliated with the school. We strongly request group admins to share and agree the following rules amongst their members:

- Within these spaces we ask that you use common sense when discussing school life online.
- 'Think before you post' social media, whether public or private, should not be used to fuel campaigns and voice complaints against the school, school staff, parents or children.
- Parents should not use social media as a medium to air any concerns or grievances.
- We take very seriously inappropriate use of social media by a parent to publicly humiliate or criticise another parent, member of staff or child. We urge anyone with questions or concerns to address them to the school directly as we are best fitted to address them accurately.

Thank you for abiding by this code in our school. Together we create a positive and uplifting environment not only for the children but also all who work at, live near and/or visit our school.