

## **Wallscourt Farm Academy Code of Conduct for Families and Visitors**

Wallscourt Farm Academy is a nurturing learning community. We believe children learn best in a safe and supportive environment based on respect and trust and underpinned by an effective partnership between families, staff and the school community. High standards of behaviour are required of learners and staff are expected to act professionally at all times. The positive support of families is needed and highly valued by the school.

This 'Code of Conduct for Families and Visitors' has been adopted and agreed by the school's Academy Council. It provides a reminder to all families and visitors to our school about the conduct expected of them. It sets out both what they should aim to do, and conduct which will not be tolerated. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

This code complements the school's 'Complaints Policy' which is designed to handle parental concerns or complaints in a sensitive and mutually supportive manner.

### **Expectations**

We expect families (and, where appropriate, visitors) to:

- Respect the caring ethos and values of our school.
- Work together with school staff for the benefit of their children.
- Treat all members of the school community with respect using appropriate language and behaviour.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern.
- Where appropriate, clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Promote good behaviour of your own children at all times, especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour (but avoid using teachers as a threat if your child misbehaves).

**In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment, Wallscourt Farm Academy will not tolerate families or visitors exhibiting the following:**

- Disruptive or other inappropriate behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's operation or activities anywhere on the school premises.
- Approaching another parent or child in order to discuss or chastise them because of an issue between the children, (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences) - please talk to a member of staff to resolve problems.
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper.
- Threatening, in any way, a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil.
- Using physical or verbal aggression towards another adult or child, including physical punishment of your own child on school premises.
- Any other behaviour, verbal or otherwise, which could be considered to be inappropriate, offensive, or abusive.
- Sending abusive or threatening e-mails, text/voicemail/phone messages, or other written communications to anyone within the school community.

- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the learners/parents/carers/staff at the school on Facebook or other social media (See Appendix below.)
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises or near to the school gates (alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events.)
- Taking photographs with phones or other devices on school premises without permission from the school.

If we are unable to resolve issues in a reasonable manner, the school may have to ban families/visitors from entering the school grounds, and in extreme cases we may need to involve the police.

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

**We ask that all families ensure they make all persons responsible for collecting their children aware of this policy.**

#### **Appendix:**

#### **Proud to be smoke and vape free**

Wallscourt Farm Academy is a smoke and vape free school. This means you can't smoke or vape on our school grounds including:

- outside the school gates
- near school crossings
- on our sports field

This applies to all school events and activities before and after school. Please note it is not law but is a voluntary code. Wallscourt Farm Academy has chosen to take this action for the benefit of our learners and their families.

#### **Why are we smoke and vape free?**

1. Exposure to second-hand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses.
2. Exposure to role models who smoke also normalises smoking behaviour, which can have a significant negative impact on the smoke/vape free message. Evidence tells us that children are less likely to start smoking if they do not see it.
3. A child or parent who already has asthma or other respiratory conditions is at a high risk of being affected by second hand smoke, even brief exposure can trigger an attack. Children are powerless to protect themselves from the dangers of second-hand smoke ...but you can!
4. A smoke/vape free school provides positive health promotion, contributing to the development of children and young people for life after school.

5. We are committed to improving the health of all our staff and students, as well as that of other members of our community. We also recognise the important role that teachers, parents and other adults have in influencing the attitudes and smoking behaviour of children and young people.

We seek your support in maintaining Wallscourt Farm Academy as a smoke/vape free community.

If you or another family member would like support to stop smoking, please call the free Smokefree National Helpline on 0300 123 1044

### **Inappropriate use of social network sites.**

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, principals, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. Our Academy Council consider the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of our learners or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the principal or the chair of Academy Council, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

### **Libellous or defamatory posts**

In the event that any learner or parent/carer of a child being educated at Wallscourt Farm Academy 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. Wallscourt Farm Academy will also expect that any learners or families remove such comments immediately.

### **Cyber bullying**

We take very seriously the issue of cyber bullying by one learner or a family to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare. In serious cases Wallscourt Farm Academy will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites.

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