Benthal Primary School

Parent Code of Conduct

Agreed by	Chair of Governors	Signed:
Approval Date	July 2021	
Review Date	July 2023	

Purpose and scope

Benthal is an inclusive school that has an unwavering holistic approach to education. Through our school values we instil high expectations and behaviours for learning for all members of our school community.

Our Benthal Values; Learners, Achievers, Friends drives the high quality teaching and learning experience for our children.

In order for the learning experience to be a strong positive one for all our children, at Benthal, we believe it is important to:

- Work in partnership with parents/carers to support their child's learning
- Create a learning community in which standards of excellence flourish in a clean, safe, secure, respectful and inclusive environment for children, staff and parents/carers
- Treat everyone in the school community with respect by being a role model for positive behaviour and interactions with children, staff and parents/carers in the school community

To help us do this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community. This includes:

- staff, through the Staff Code of Conduct and the Benthal Staff Handbook
- children through our Mental Health & Well-Being Policy (formally our Behaviour & Anti-Bullying Policy)
- parents/carers, through our Home School Agreement and in addition through the Parent Code of Conduct

What is the Parent Code of Conduct?

This code of conduct aims to help the school work positively together with parents/carers by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

We use the term 'parent' to refer to:

- ❖ Anyone with parental responsibility for a child
- ❖ Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or child-minders)

Our expectations of parents and carers (past & present)

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school
- Work together with staff in the best interests of all Benthal children
- Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech, in writing and behaviour
- Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct
- Follow Benthal School's policies and procedures without question
- Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern
- Attempt to resolve any issues or concerns with school staff, informally, in the first instance as outlined in the Schools Complaint's Policy

Behaviour that will not be tolerated:

Towards Staff and the School Community

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches or off site)
- Swearing, or using offensive language
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- Damaging or destroying school property

- Threatening either physically, verbally or in writing, another member of the school community
- Physically harming another member of the school community
- Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed for a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than service/guide dogs)
- Using a camera, mobile phone or other electronic device within school premises to take pictures or video their own or other parents/carers children including all and any children that maybe in the background without the parents' consent- consent is required by all to safeguard all children and to be GDPR compliant
- Covert and /or overt recording of meetings with any staff member or partner colleagues who work alongside Benthal, using a mobile phone or other electronic device

Towards Children

- Use of physical punishment against your child while on school premises
- Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult or any member of the School Community
- Approaching and/or disciplining another person's child – please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention

On Social Media

- Sending abusive and/or inappropriate messages, via text, email or social media, to staff (including members of their family) or any other members of the school community
- Sending abusive and/or inappropriate messages about Benthal School staff, via text, email or social media, to partner colleagues who work alongside Benthal school for example colleagues at Hackney Education
- To use social media to air concerns or grievances, the Schools Complaint's Policy is the appropriate format to resolve concerns/grievances
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on any social media platforms including gaming apps for example on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Roblox, this is not an exclusive list as social media constantly is evolving
- Parents are responsible if their child uses their social media account to send or post abusive, defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community

Breaching the code of conduct

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent (past or present) has breached the code of conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the parent about the incident.

Depending on the nature of the incident, the school may then:

- End the meeting
- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent in to school to meet with a Senior Leader or the Head Teacher
- Contact the appropriate authorities, including the police (in cases of criminal behaviour) and/or Children& Families Services if the incident breaches Safeguarding & Child Protection statutory guidance
- Seek advice from the local authority's legal team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the parent from the school site

It is the duty of the Governing Board of Benthal to ensure that the school, Head Teacher and all staff are protected against any form of abuse from pupils or parent/carers current, past or present.

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

The Head Teacher will consult the Chair of Governors before banning a parent from the school site. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the Head Teacher.

Thank you for abiding by the Parent Code of Conduct at Benthal. Together we create a positive and uplifting environment not only for the children but also all who work and visit our school.