

Enfield Grammar School



Visitor Behaviour Policy

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1. Purpose and Scope

The aim of this policy is to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, the safety of staff that have contact with the public. Whilst it is important for the public, including parents, students and family members, that they are treated fairly and without discrimination, it is equally important that staff are treated similarly by the public.

By having a clear understanding of what constitutes unacceptable behaviour and a consistent procedure for responding to situations where behaviour is unacceptable. The purpose of this policy is to help the public gain an understanding of the boundaries and staff will feel reassured that should they find themselves in this situation there is a process to resolve it.

2. Protocol and Procedures

All visitors to the school may be asked to bring formal identification with them at the time of their visit (unless they are named on the approved visitors list (as set out below in 3)). They must follow this procedure:

- Once on site, all visitors must report to the school office on the site that they are visiting. No visitor is permitted to enter the school via any other entrance under any circumstances.
- At the office, all visitors must state the purpose of their visit and who has invited them or who has agreed to meet with them. They should be ready to produce formal identification upon request.
- All visitors will be asked to sign the visitors' record book making note of their name, organisation, who they are visiting, the time and their car registration.
- All visitors will be required to wear an identification badge – the badge must remain visible throughout their visit.
- Visitors will then be asked to remain in the waiting area until their point of contact collects them. The contact will then be responsible for them while they are on site.
- If a visitor becomes abusive or aggressive they will be asked to refrain from this behaviour. See section 4 below.
- Upon departure, visitors must sign out at the school office and return their identification badge.

3. Approved Visitor List

The school will hold an approved visitor list for visitors who frequently visit the school site to undertake work within the school including contractors and supply staff.

To qualify for this list the visitor must have demonstrated prior to the visit that:

- They have a current enhanced DBS Check which has been verified and entered on the approved visitor list.
- Supply teaching agencies will have provided DBS evidence to the School Business Manager who will add the reference number to the approved list.

Visitors on the approved list must report to reception and sign in the visitors book upon arrival. Visitors who are not on the approved list must not be in school unaccompanied.

A copy of the approved visitor list will be kept behind the reception at all times.

4. Governors and Volunteers

All Governors and volunteers must have a DBS check and must sign in and out using the visitors' book.

5. Consequences of Unacceptable Behaviour

Step one

- 1.1 On the first instance of an individual's behaviour being unacceptable, they should be immediately informed of this and asked to regain their composure. If necessary, staff should withdraw from the area and wait for the individual to become calmer. If they do regain their composure and are able to proceed in an acceptable manner the conversation should be completed.
- 1.2 If staff are concerned that the individual has not been able to regain their composure, they should politely ask them to leave the premises.
- 1.3 If they do not do so, or they react to this request in an aggressive manner, a member of SLT should be contacted to attend.
- 1.4 Following SLT intervention, if the individual does not regain their composure and continues to display concerning behaviour, the police will be contacted, and Step 4.2 should be applied.

Step Two

- 2.1 The individual should be contacted formally by letter to confirm that their behaviour was unacceptable and be provided with a copy of the Statement of Expectation of Behaviour (Appendix 2). They should be offered an appointment to discuss the incident and/or the matter which gave rise to their behaviour in a calm and co-operative manner. When the individual attends the meeting, they should not be seen by a lone member of staff.
- 2.2 If the incident was of such severity that their presence, even for the purposes of this meeting, is considered to present an unacceptable risk, the individual should be advised to submit their case in writing, with details of the person to write to, and the date by which written representation should be received.
- 2.3 They should also be advised that failure to attend the meeting or to submit their case in writing will mean a decision is taken in their absence.
- 2.4 If you suspect that the individual may have literacy needs, which would inhibit their understanding of the correspondence sent to them, this should be established so as to investigate alternative methods of communication. This may include the use of the Translation Service, relaying the information by telephone or the inclusion of an advocate into the arrangements. (see appendix 4).

Step three

- 3.1 If at the meeting the individual presents acceptable behaviour, i.e. is calm and understands the actions that the manager has taken, and dialogue relating to the underlying concern is possible, no further action should be taken.
- 3.2 If, however, the individual presents unacceptable behaviour at the meeting they should be advised to leave the premises as in Step one.

Step Four

- 4.1 The individual should be advised in writing that as a second incident of unacceptable behaviour has occurred that this will result in being prohibited from the premises.

- 4.2 In extreme circumstances where the risk to the safety of staff is high, an immediate prohibition can be issued, with details of the reasons why such action was considered appropriate.

Step five

- 5.1 Legal advice should be sought with regard to prohibiting the individual from the premises. The prohibition should state the date the prohibition takes effect and the date on which it will be reviewed.

Step six

- 6.1 If the individual adheres to the prohibition and does not present unacceptable behaviour at the agreed review time, they should be invited to discuss the lifting of the prohibition. However, they should also be assured that any return to unacceptable behaviour will result in the reinstatement of the prohibition.
- 6.2 If the individual does not adhere to the terms of the prohibition, legal advice should be sought regarding the details of the contravention, including witness statements to support the information. It is not acceptable to report third party information that the individual did not adhere to the prohibition. The persons sitting the individual must provide a statement confirming the time and details that the event took place.

Step seven

- 7.1 Consideration can be given to turn the prohibition into an injunction with power of arrest. This will be served on the individual at their home address.

Step eight

- 8.1 The presence of the individual once an injunction has been served should result in a call to the police to undertake the arrest.
- 8.2 The adherence to the injunction by the individual should result in a review as in Step 6.1.

6. Acceptable Behaviour

The aim must always be that an individual can access services and premises in a safe and non-abusive manner and that staff feel safe and secure in providing those services. The opportunity for the individual to demonstrate acceptable behaviour must be made available to them and thereby the removal of whichever step in the process their behaviour has achieved.

7. Unknown and Uninvited Visitors to the School

Any visitor to the school site who is not wearing an identity badge should be challenged politely to enquire who they are and their business on the school site.

In the event that a visitor refuses to comply, they should be asked to leave the site immediately and the Deputy Headteacher should be informed promptly.

If an unknown visitor becomes abusive or aggressive they will be asked to leave the site immediately and warned that if they fail to leave the school grounds police assistance will be called for.

8. Section 547 Education Act 1996

The model letters (Appendix 1) suggest how use might be made of section 547 of the Education Act 1996 in the letters that are sent to parents and other visitors.

Section 547 - makes it an offence for a person without lawful authority on school premises and causes or permits nuisance or disturbance is guilty of an offence and liable in summary conviction to a fine.

A parent of a child attending a school normally has implied permission to be on the school's premises at certain times and for certain purposes but if the parent's behaviour is unreasonable this permission may be withdrawn, and they will become a trespasser. The model letters which may be adapted by the governing body to inform a parent or other person that they may not enter a school's premises and how to appeal against this decision.

A person who nevertheless persists in entering the school premises and displaying unreasonable behaviour may be removed and prosecuted under section 547.

9. Model Letters and section 547 Education Act 1996

The following examples of letters (which can be adapted for different legal purposes where necessary) are to parents or other visitors to school premises whose permission to be on the premises is to be, or has been, withdrawn by the governing body. The letters show that where such a parent re-enters school premises and causes a nuisance or disturbance, section 547 might be used.

A Headteacher has the right to decide who can come onto school premises but the letters should be sent by the governing body, on behalf of the Headteacher.

Using powers under section 547 allows for action which the governing body can take on behalf of a school and which can be straightforward, quick and effective in removing violent, aggressive or abusive people from school premises.

Section 547 will not be the most appropriate remedy in every circumstance. Serious violence, repeated harassment or racially aggravated behaviour for example, may warrant stronger criminal sanctions. Legal advice should be sought in this instance.

Appendix 1 – Model Letters

BAN LETTER-1 - Letter to ban parent with child/ren at the school following incident

RECORDED DELIVERY

Dear

Following the incident that happened at (insert name) School, and your conduct on (enter date and time).

[Add summary of the incident and of its effect on staff, pupils, and other parents.]

I must inform you that the board of governors will not tolerate conduct of this nature on its premises and will act to defend its staff and pupils. I am therefore instructing that (for a temporary period) you are not to reappear on the premises of the School. If you do not comply with this instruction, I shall arrange for you to be removed from the premises and prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted under this section, you are liable to a fine.

The withdrawal of permission for you to enter the school premises takes effect straightaway. However, I still need to decide whether it is appropriate to confirm this decision. Before I do so, I wish to give you an opportunity to give me in writing any comments or observations of your own in relation to the report which I have received from the Headteacher. These comments may include any expressions of regret on your part and any assurances you are prepared to give about your future good conduct. To enable me to take a decision on this matter at an early point, you are asked to send me any written comments you wish to make by (state date ten working days from the date of letter).

If on receipt of your comments I consider that my decision should be confirmed, you will be supplied with details of how to pursue a review of the circumstances of your case.

Yours sincerely,

BAN LETTER-1(a) Letter to ban member of the public (not parent) following incident

RECORDED DELIVERY

Dear

Following the incident that happened at (insert name) School, and your conduct on (enter date and time).

[Add summary of the incident and of its effect on staff, pupils, and other parents.]

I must inform you that the board of governors will not tolerate conduct of this nature on its premises and will act to defend its staff and pupils.

I am instructing that you are not to reappear on the premises of the School. If you do not comply with this instruction, I shall arrange for you to be removed from the premises and prosecuted under section 547 of the Education Act. If convicted, you are liable to a fine.

Yours sincerely,

BAN LETTER 2 - Letter to parent with child/ren at the school confirming ban

RECORDED DELIVERY

Dear

On (give date) I wrote to you informing you that I had withdrawn permission for you to come onto the premises of (insert name) School. To enable the board of governors to determine whether to confirm this decision for a longer period, I gave you the opportunity to give your written comments on the incident concerned by (give date).

I have not received a written response from you / I have now received a letter from you dated insert date, the contents of which I have noted. (delete either sentence as appropriate).

In the circumstances, and after further consideration of the Headteacher's report, I have determined that the decision to withdraw permission for you to come onto school premises should be confirmed. I am therefore instructing that until further notice you are not to come onto the premises of the School without the prior knowledge and approval of the Headteacher. If you do not comply with this instruction I shall arrange for you to be removed from the premises and prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted, you are liable to a fine.

Notwithstanding this decision the Headteacher and staff at (insert name) School remain committed to the education of your child/children (delete as appropriate), who must continue to attend school as normal insert in the case of a primary school: under the arrangements set out in my previous letter.

The board of governors will take steps to review the continuance of this decision on (give date). When deciding whether it is necessary to extend the withdrawal of permission to come onto the School's premises, the governors will take into account the extent of your compliance with the decision, any appropriate expressions of regret and assurance of future good conduct received from yourself and any evidence of your co-operation with the School in other respects.

[Include where the incident has arisen within the context of a parental complaint against the School:]

Finally, I would advise you that I have asked the Headteacher to ensure that your complaint that (give brief details) is considered under the appropriate stage of the school's complaints procedure. You will be contacted about this by the School in due course.

If you wish to pursue the matter further, you have a right to a review of the circumstances of this case by contacting ... (complete as appropriate with name of LA officer).

Yours sincerely,

BAN LETTER 3 - Letter to parent with child/ren at the school after review of ban to inform ban still stands

RECORDED DELIVERY

Dear

I wrote to you on (give date) withdrawing permission for you to come onto the premises of (insert name) School until further notice. In that letter I also advised you that I would take steps to review this decision on (give date).

I have now completed the review. However, after consultation with the Headteacher and board of governors I have determined that it is not yet appropriate for me to withdraw my decision. (Give a brief summary of reasons.)

I therefore advise that the instruction that you are not to come onto the premises of (insert name) School without the prior knowledge and approval of the Headteacher remains in place until further notice.

I shall undertake a further review of this decision on (give date).

[If the letter is from the Governing Body] If you are dissatisfied with this decision, you have a right to complain to the local education authority.

Yours sincerely,

UNBAN LETTER 1

RECORDED DELIVERY

Dear,

On (insert date) I wrote to you informing you that I had temporarily withdrawn permission for you to come onto the premises of (insert name) School. To enable me to determine whether to confirm this decision for a longer period, I gave you the opportunity to let me have your written comments on this incident by (insert date).

I have not received a written response from you / I have now received a letter from you dated (insert date), the contents of which I have noted. (delete either sentence as appropriate).

[However] In the circumstances, and after consulting with the Headteacher/chair of governors, I have decided that it is not necessary to confirm the decision, and I am therefore restoring to you the permission to come onto the school premises, with immediate effect.

Nevertheless I remain very concerned at the incident which occurred on (insert date), and I must warn you that if there is any repetition of your behaviour on that occasion, I shall not hesitate to withdraw permission for you to come onto the premises again.

Yours sincerely,

UNBAN LETTER 2

RECORDED DELIVERY

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wrote to you on (give date) informing you that I had withdrawn permission for you to come onto the premises of (insert name) School until further notice. In that letter I also advised you that I would take steps to review this decision on (give date).

I have now completed the review. After consultation with the Headteacher, I have decided that it is now appropriate to change that decision and I am therefore restoring to you the permission to come onto the school premises, with immediate effect.

I trust that you can now be relied upon to act in full co-operation with the School and that there will be no further difficulties of the kind which made it necessary for me to prevent you entering the premises.

I should point out that if there is any repetition of your behaviour, I shall not hesitate to withdraw permission for you to come onto the premises again.

Yours sincerely,

Appendix 2 – Statement of expectation of behaviour

Whilst the public are on our premises there is an expectation that behaviour by both staff and visitors, including parents of pupils, will meet certain standards.

- Our staff will be polite and courteous towards you at all times. If you feel a member of staff has behaved in an unacceptable way, please end your discussion and report the matter in writing to the Headteacher or senior manager. They will then contact you to investigate and attempt to resolve your complaint
- In return it is our expectation that you will be polite and courteous to staff. If staff are subjected to unacceptable behaviour, they have been instructed to end the discussion with you and inform you of the reasons. You will be asked to leave the premises. A letter to confirm the reasons why you were asked to leave and the action that we intend to take as a result will be sent to you. You will be given the opportunity to discuss the matter with us in a calm and civil manner. If the incident is particularly serious or is repeated, you may be barred from the premises.

The following behaviours are unacceptable, and the list is not exhaustive:

- Swearing, spitting, shouting, threatening words or gestures
- Physical intimidation and the use of force such as pushing, pulling, poking, prodding etc.
- Use of any abusive language (e.g., racist, ageist and sexist comments etc.)
- Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst on our premises
- Smoking (including vaping) or drinking whilst on our premises
- Any kind of physical abuse
- Threatening behaviour