



What a busy half term we've had already!

A huge thank you for all the donations that were sent into school for the Hope Centre as part of our Harvest Festival. The children had a lovely day experiencing our colour and light activities, taking part in sensory stories, a sensory massage and creating different art work linked to Diwali and bonfire night. Thank you to everyone who made a donation to Children In Need. As a school we raised £72.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Sleep Right workshop. We are hoping to organise more workshops in the future.

Over the next few weeks we will be moving into our winter topic with Early Years and Key Stage 1 using the story of The Snowman and Key Stage 2 looking at The Nutcracker. Don't miss the dates in the newsletter. You can come and join us, and participate in the Christmas production with your child.



### **Parental Responsibility**

As a school we understand it can be difficult when parents of children are separated or are divorced, however we must treat all parents equally.

For the purposes of education law, section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as:

- all natural (biological) parents, whether they are married or not;
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person (this could be a step-parent, guardian or other relative);
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

Everyone who is a parent has a right to participate in decisions about a child's education and receive information about the child, even though, for day-to-day purposes, our main contact is usually the parent with whom the child lives on school days.

Individuals who have parental responsibility for, or care of, a child have the same rights as natural parents; for example:

- to receive information, e.g. pupil reports;
- to participate in statutory activities; e.g. vote in elections for parent governors;
- to be asked to give consent; e.g. to the child taking part in school trips;
- to be informed about meetings involving the child; e.g. a governors' meeting on the child's exclusion.
- to attend school events and participate in school activities with their child.

It is important to remember that all parents have legal obligations; for example: to ensure that a child of compulsory school age receives a suitable full-time education.

We are unable to prevent a parent being involved with their child's education unless there is a Court order limiting an individual's exercise of parental responsibility.

While it can be difficult if all parents wish to be involved with their child's life at school, we ask that all parents follow our parent code of conduct when on school premises and behave in an appropriate manner.

Where a parent's action, or proposed action conflicts with the school's ability to act in the child's best interests, we will try to resolve the problem with that parent but avoid becoming involved in conflict. However, there may be occasions when we need to decline requests for action from one or more parents.

If this is something you would like to discuss with us, please get in touch and we can arrange a meeting.

# Fairfields Parent Code of Conduct

## Purpose and scope

At Fairfields we believe it's important to:

- Work in partnership with parents to support their child's learning
- Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and parents
- Model appropriate behaviour for our pupils at all times

To help us do this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on conduct for all members of our community. This includes staff (through the staff code of conduct) and pupils (through our behaviour policy). This parent code of conduct aims to help the school work together with parents by setting expectations on appropriate conduct.

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

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

## Our expectations of parents and carers

We expect parents and carers to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school; this includes being mindful of the different needs of the school community
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils
- Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with language and conduct
- Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- Ensure their child is safe at all times while on school premises
- Approach the appropriate member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern, sharing these in a courteous manner
- Value everyone equally regardless of race, disability, gender, sexuality or social class; we are an inclusive community.

## Conduct that will not be tolerated

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations
- Swearing, or using offensive language
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- Threatening or intimidating another member of the school community
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms
- Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult
- Disciplining another person's child – please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention
- Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs)
- Posting photos of pupils, other than parents' own child, on social media

## Breaching the code of conduct

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the parent about the incident. This will either be face to face or on the phone.

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

- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent in to school to meet with a senior member of staff or the headteacher
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from the local authority's legal team (Pathfinder Legal Services) regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the parent from the school site

The school will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the headteacher.

The headteacher will consult the chair of governors before banning a parent from the school site.

### **GPS Trackers and Apple Air tags.**

We have recently had a number of requests about trackers for children, particularly when they are on school transport. We understand that as parents being able to track your child on their journey to and from school is important to give you piece of mind.

Our preference as a school would always be not to use a tracker, as we would like to maintain good communication with you all. However, if you would still like to use a tracker, we would request that it is in your child's bag and that you inform us that it is there. When in school your child's bag will remain on their peg until the end of the school day.

Unfortunately if the tracker gets damaged or lost we are unable to take responsibility for this.

### **Tablets and iPad**

We have seen an increase in the number of children who are coming to school with a tablet or an iPad. We understand that in most cases this is to help them remain regulated and calm on the journey to and from school on school transport. We wanted to remind you that if your child comes to school with an electronic device this will be put in their bag on their arrival at school and will be returned to them when they are on school transport at the end of the day.

If your child requires an electronic device in school for a different reason e.g. to access community software which you have purchased at home, this needs to be agreed with the class teacher prior to the device being sent in.

Unfortunately if the device gets damaged or lost we are unable to take responsibility for this.

### **Medication**

As parents, it is your responsibility to administer any medication your child needs outside of the school day, where possible. Medicines will only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so. Where medication is required during school time, we need written evidence of this (on label or note from GP). When sending in your child's medication, please also send in the appropriate resources to administer the medication e.g. syringes.

If a child has a new medication, either as a regular dose or as an 'ad hoc' medication, e.g. antibiotic, the medical team need a day to make adjustments to the schedule to accommodate this and to check all paperwork has been completed. If the child needs to come to school before we have arrangements in place, you will be asked to come into school to administer the medication.

### **Admissions to hospital**

After a stay in hospital, due to surgery or a period of illness, we ask that you keep your child at home for an appropriate period of time, for rest and recovery, before they return to school. The length of time will depend on the individual circumstances, however this would be a minimum of 1 school day.

If possible, please ask the relevant hospital consultant to copy in Sara Clarkson and the school nurse to the child's discharge notes and/or any relevant professionals' reports, so that appropriate arrangements and plans can be put in place, including a risk assessment if needed, ready for when your child returns to school. Your child will not be able to return to school until all relevant plans and resources are put in place to ensure their safety and wellbeing. A phased return back into school may also be recommended.

### **Personal Care**

If your child needs support with personal care, please send into school a supply of incontinence pads/ pull ups, wipes and sundries e.g. cream, that will be used and applied as necessary. If your child also requires a milk feed, please also send in the appropriate syringes, giving sets and extension tubes so we can administer this in school.

Please can a set of labelled spare clothes also be sent into school to enable us to change your child if required, including underwear and socks.

## Dates for the Year.

We have been asked to share dates with you all with as much notice as possible. Below are the scheduled dates for the year. They are all be confirmed nearer the time. Please keep an eye on the Parent App for updates.

Christmas Production Dates—More details to follow			
The Snowman		The Nutcracker	
Otter	16th December 2022 - 9.45am	Squirrel	10th December 2022 - 9.45am
Duckling	16th December 2022 - 11am	Deer	10th December 2022 - 11am
Dormouse	16th December 2022 - 1.30pm	Fox	10th December 2022 - 1.30pm
Mole	17th December 2022 - 9.45am	Badger	11th December 2022 - 9.45am
Rabbit	17th December 2022 - 11am	Kestrel	11th December 2022 - 11am
Hedgehog	17th December 2022 - 1.30pm	Owl	11th December 2022 - 1.30pm
		Dove	12th December 2022 - 9.45am
		Robin	12th December 2022 - 11am

### Coffee Mornings

- Tuesday 28th November — 9.30am - 11.30am
- Thursday 30th January — 9.30am - 11.30am
- Thursday 20th March— 9.30am - 11.30am
- Thursday 15th May — 9.30am - 11.30am
- Thursday 26th June — 9.30am - 11.30am

### School Celebrations—Parents Invited

- Stay and Play— Friday 7th February
- Easter — Thursday 24th & Friday 25th April
- Sports Week—19th—23rd May
- End of Year Celebration Assemblies — Riverbank: 17th July, Meadow: 18th July, Woodland: 21st July, Treetops: 22nd July

### Parents Evenings

- Celebration Evening—Wednesday 5th March

### School Events

- Purple Sock Day (International Day of People with Disabilities) - 3rd December—**Please send your child into school in a pair of purple socks.**
- Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day—Friday 13th December
- Chinese New Year—31st January
- World Book Day — Thursday 6th March
- Eid day—Thursday 3rd April
- Water/Maths day—Thursday 3rd July