

# Parent and visitor code of conduct

Winterbourne Junior Girls' School



Aspirations, Expectations, No Excuses

Winterbourne Junior Girls' School

Vincam – 'Together we Conquer'

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## Contents

1. Purpose and scope.....	2
2. Our expectations of parents and carers .....	2
3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated .....	3
4. Breaching the code of conduct .....	3
Appendix 1: Social Media .....	4

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### 1. Purpose and scope

At Winterbourne Junior Girls' School we are very fortunate to have supportive and friendly parents. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between home and school and understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

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

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents and visitors to our school about expected conduct so that we can work together to ensure a safe and positive school environment for our children.

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 pupils (through our positive behaviour policy).

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

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)

### 2. Our expectations of parents and carers

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school by setting a good example in their own speech and behaviour towards all members 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 speech 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
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- › Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern
- › Reinforcing the school's policy on Behaviour;
- › Parking with consideration and respect for others when delivering and collecting children from school.

### **3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated**

- › Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds)
- › Swearing, or using offensive language
- › Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- › Threatening 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
- › Use of physical punishment against your child while on school premises
- › 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
- › Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- › Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs)

### **4. 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.

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 regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- › Ban the parent from the school site

The above behaviours on school premises will be reported to the appropriate authorities and Governors may prohibit an offending adult from entering the school grounds to safeguard our school community.

We trust that parents, carers and visitors will fully support this Code of Conduct.

## Appendix 1: Social Media

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Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. Winterbourne Junior Girls' School considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the Class Teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated at Winterbourne Junior Girls 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 contact or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by any member of the school community to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying.