

**FRED LONGWORTH**  
HIGH SCHOOL



## **Code of Conduct for Parents and Carers**

**November 2019**

## Introduction

At Fred Longworth, we encourage all members of our school community to be their best through our focus on “**B**elonging, **E**ngaging, **S**ucceeding **T**ogether”. The focus on working together is particularly important as we seek to forge and maintain excellent relationships with our parents and carers. Only through this partnership approach can we provide the best possible education for all our students.

In addition to the codes of conduct already in place for staff and governors, this code of conduct aims to provide clear guidelines on how parents, carers and visitors to our school are expected to behave. It provides clarity on the types of behaviour that will not be tolerated and sets out the actions that school can take in response to any breaches of the code. Visitors to our social media sites are included within the scope of this code.

As a school, we are committed to resolving difficulties in a constructive manner and would ask that the same approach is taken by all the members of our school community. This will help us to foster the very best possible partnerships as we seek the very best education for all our students. All visitors to school should be aware that staff, including those on Reception, are entitled to be treated with respect and courtesy.

### ***Behaviour that will not be tolerated:***

- Disruptive behaviour that interferes with or threatens to interfere with any of the school’s normal activities anywhere on the school premises;
- Inappropriate behaviour on school premises;
- The use of offensive or threatening language;
- Aggressive behaviour towards staff, including refusal to leave when asked;
- Aggressive behaviour or threats towards other parents or their children;
- Threats to members of staff, other visitors, students or other parents whilst on school premises;
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the students/parents/staff/governors at the school on social media sites;
- Approaching any student in order to chastise them for any reason or discuss with them their behaviour towards your own child;
- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on the school premises (alcohol may be consumed at special events outside of school hours);
- Recording meetings without the express permission of all those in attendance;
- Use of a mobile ‘phone to take *any* images and/or audio clip whilst on school premises without prior permission.

In the event of any parent or visitor breaking this code, the following actions may be taken:

- We may invite any parent who breaches the code of conduct to a meeting to try to resolve the matter. If a parent refuses to attend such a meeting, they may be banned from the school site;
- In some cases, a parent or other visitor may be banned from the site with immediate effect.

- The police will be called if the behaviour is serious and/or thought to be potentially criminal. This will certainly be the case in the event of threatening or violent behaviour;
- Legal advice and possible legal action will be taken in the event that the behaviour is regarded as libellous or slanderous, including within posts on social media;

## **Complaints**

This code of conduct does not prevent parents and carers from raising a legitimate complaint in an appropriate manner. Most complaints can be resolved informally, but any parent not satisfied with the response they receive at this stage should refer to our Complaints Procedure, which is published on our website.

## **Use of Social Media**

There are a number of school sites, including Twitter and Facebook. We actively encourage you to engage with these sites and to participate positively if you wish. We ask, however, that common sense is applied before posting comments. As we have a clear Complaints Procedure, our social media sites are not the best (or most efficient) way to raise complaints and we ask that you do not use them for this purpose.

We also ask that social media, public or private, should not be used to fuel campaigns against the school, its staff, parents, governors or students. We take very seriously the inappropriate use of social media by a parent to publicly criticise or humiliate another parent, student or member of staff.

In the interests of absolute clarity, we consider the following to be inappropriate online activity:

- Identifying or posting images/videos of students without prior permission;
- Abusive or personal comments about staff, students or other parents;
- Bringing the school into disrepute;
- Posting defamatory or libellous comments;
- Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff or students;
- Using social media publicly to challenge school policies or discuss issues about individual students;
- Threatening behaviour, such as verbally intimidating staff, or use of bad language;
- Breaching school security procedures.

***Think before you post: if in doubt, don't post!***