Broadbent Fold Primary School

and Nursery



In Partnership with STAMFORD PARK TRUST

Anti-Social Behaviour Policy

November 2026

At Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery we believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to learn and work.

Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the premises is contrary to the aims of the school.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is defined in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as behaviour by any person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator of the anti-social behaviour.

Harassment is defined as any incident which is perceived to derive from prejudice or hatred of the victim. This includes colour, race, nationality or sexual orientation.

Introduction

Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery has certain aspirations: These include but are not restricted to:

- providing a safe and happy learning environment
- fostering a school community built on mutual respect and care
- preparing children in our care to take their places as responsible and caring members of society

To promote the achievement of these aims, we promote an atmosphere where anti-social behaviour is actively discouraged in all its forms. Our ethos actively encourages our children to grow:

- morally
- socially
- spiritually
- culturally

around the all-embracing principles of safety, equality and inclusion.

Any form of anti-social behaviour puts our ethos, aims and aspirations at risk.

We know that all schools experience anti-social behaviour of some sort at some time. It is our aim to develop a community where this is not tolerated in any form, at any time and incidents are dealt with swiftly and severely.

All members of the Broadbent Fold community, children and adults, are actively encouraged to support the delivery of this principle.

Statement of Intent

At all times and in every circumstance we will promote an ethos of caring and respect as encapsulated in our schools core values. The expectations of Broadbent Fold pupils are to be:

Ready

Respectful

Safe

All stakeholders expect these values to be upheld at all times, by all members and to guide any interaction or communication carried out by staff, children, parents/carers, visitors or members of the wider community.

All staff develop positive and supportive relationships with the vast majority of parents, carers and visitors to Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery and the children have benefited from this through observing positive role models and having observed polite and respectful behaviours.

Where a person, or persons, demonstrates a negative attitude towards staff, other parents or children this undermines all of the positive work being undertaken and can set a very poor example to the children.

Aggressive or anti-social behaviour from parents, carers or members of the public on the premises at Broadbent Fold, over the telephone or on social media is unacceptable and can have a very intimidating and stressful effect on both members of staff and children.

School premises are private property and parents have been granted permission from the Headteacher to be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, the Headteacher may ban parents from entering the premises.

Society's code of normal behaviour is not suspended in the school premises and neither is the law. Consequently, anti-social behaviour will be dealt with under the powers granted to the school under both common law and various Education Acts, and in the most serious cases will be immediately referred to the police.

A person, upon request, refusing to leave the school site can be deemed as trespassing, while intended or actual assault or battery may lead to legal action.

The governors and Headteacher are committed to taking prompt and decisive action when excessive or prolonged aggressive and anti-social behaviour occurs.

The school expects staff to behave professionally at all times and attempt to resolve difficult situations where possible, seeking the involvement of others where this may help to diffuse an otherwise unpleasant situation.

Equally, all staff have the right to feel safe and to work without fear of threats, violence or abuse. Therefore, the school expects parents, carers and members of the wider community to behave appropriately in any interface with staff and will take all appropriate actions against individuals who contravene this policy.

This policy outlines the steps that will be taken where a person's or group's behaviour is unacceptable.

Unacceptable behaviour, for the purpose of this policy, includes any of the following actions against a member of staff, child or another parent whilst on school property or whilst in public if this relates to a school based issue:

- loud, raised voices or shouting, either in person or over the phone
- being physically intimidating or invading an individual's own personal space (e.g. standing over or being too close to them)
- the use of aggressive or impolite hand or face gestures e.g. two raised fingers, a hand towards a face
- threatening behaviour
- showing or holding a fist towards another person
- writing abusive comments on social media
- abusive language and swearing
- pushing, spitting or tripping
- hitting e.g. slapping, punching or kicking
- racist, ageist or sexist comments
- breaking the school's site security procedures
- written or verbal accusatory comments
- slanderous or libellous comments

Unacceptable behaviour of the type outlined above will result in the Headteacher, the Chair of the Governing Body and, as appropriate, the Police being informed of the incident and may lead to the person being temporarily excluded from the premises under Section 206 & Schedule 20 of the Education Act 2002.

Inappropriate use of Social Networking Sites:

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, teaching and support staff, and in some cases, other parents/pupils.

The Governors of Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery 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 community.

Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Deputy Headteacher, Headteacher or the Chair of the Governing Body, 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 Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery 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 one child or a parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

Procedure to address inappropriate behaviour by adults on the school site:

At Broadbent Fold we operate a 'zero tolerance' of the use of inappropriate behaviour anywhere on the school site. Inappropriate behaviour means disrespectful conduct towards people or property within the school site.

Adults should set a good example to children at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and the wider community. That no members of staff, parents or children are the victims of abusive behaviour or open to threats from other adults on the school premises.

All staff and governors agree that any adult found to be using inappropriate behaviour on school grounds towards other adults or children should be dealt with using the following steps:

A parent experiences verbal or physical aggression:

The parent should report this to a member of staff at the school. The school will advise the parent to contact 101 if they feel an assault has occurred. The school will keep a log of the parents account and if the school believe that a child's welfare has been put at risk appropriate discussions and actions will be taken. The safeguarding leader will also be alerted.

A member of staff experiences verbal or physical aggression:

This should be reported immediately to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. This will be investigated as soon as possible, and the member of staff will be informed of the action taken.

Recurring inappropriate behaviour:

If a parent continues to use inappropriate behaviour, they will be referred to this Policy. This indicates how anti-social behaviour, when not corrected, can lead to interviews with the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher and Governors. This can then lead to a ban from the school site under section 547 of the Education Act 1996.

Please note the term 'parent' can be related to any adult who accompanies children onto the school site.

Procedure for Staff

Where a parent/carer or a member of the public behaves in an unacceptable way to a member of staff either on or off the school site, the following procedures should be invoked. The member of staff concerned should seek to involve another member of staff

where possible. If necessary, a message indicating that a serious problem may be developing should be sent to the school office.

When dealing with confrontation on a phone call:

Where an individual is being verbally aggressive, rude, racist or otherwise antisocial over the phone, the member of staff is encouraged to inform the individual that the conversation is being placed on speakerphone mode to ensure the staff member has a witness to give account of the tone and content of the conversation. If the caller persists in using inappropriate language then the teacher should warn the caller in a polite and professional way that the conversation will be terminated unless there is an immediate improvement. If the caller, still persists then the member of staff should tell the individual in a polite and professional way that they are putting down the phone and then replace the handset to terminate the conversation.

When dealing with a confrontation face to face:

Where a person is being verbally aggressive, rude, racist or antisocial in a face to face meeting, the member of staff is encouraged to inform the parent that the tone and/or content of the conversation is becoming inappropriate.

If the individual persists in using inappropriate language then the staff member should warn the person in a polite and professional way that the conversation will be terminated unless there is an improvement.

If the person, still persists then the member of staff should tell the individual that the conversation is now finished until the person is calmer, at which point the member of staff should walk away.

At all times the member of staff should seek to defuse the situation and try to speak in a calm and approachable way.

What to do after dealing with a confrontation.

If a member of staff has experienced aggressive or anti-social behaviour they must seek to inform the Headteacher or a senior member of staff as soon as possible after the event.

If the member of staff feels confident that the person has calmed down sufficiently to have a reasonable conversation with them, they should contact them again at a mutually convenient time. Alternatively, they can arrange another meeting or phone call with a colleague or, if necessary, with the Headteacher present. If the member of staff feels that they are going to be subject to a difficult phone call or meeting they should inform their line manager and have them present at the time.

It is important that staff do not expose themselves to unnecessary risk e.g. a meeting taking place in an isolated part of the school site or when the majority of staff have left the premises. Where an incident or conversation has had to be referred to the Headteacher, the member of staff must make written notes of the event.

Where the Headteacher has been unable to resolve the issue he/she will need to make a thorough investigation into all the facts and write a detailed and accurate report for the Governing Body. An incident log will need to be completed.

Where the Headteacher and Governors, seek to ban a person or persons from the site for a set period of time, a letter will be issued and a copy of this attached to the child's records. The person/persons being banned will be informed in writing. The letter will state the reason, consequences, timescales and how to appeal to the school.

It is important that the member of staff who has experienced aggressive behaviour from a parent/carer or member of the public should be given the opportunity to talk over events with their Line Manager and the Headteacher and that they should be monitored after the event to see if there are any signs of stress or continuing fear.

Incidents occurring at the school are recorded and the Headteacher and Senior Staff will assess whether there are any trends that suggest incidents are becoming more widespread or are on the increase. Increases in trends will be analysed and brought to the attention of the Chair of Governors.

In the event of a really serious incident further action may need to be taken with the local authority or police.

Guidance Notes

Primary Reference

Section 206 & Schedule 20 of EA 2002: "Nuisance or Disturbance on Educational Premises".

Context

Taken from DfE Guidance (Advice on school security: Access to, and barring of individuals from, school premises)

Although fulfilling a public function, schools are private places. The public has no automatic right of entry. Parents of enrolled pupils have an 'implied licence' to come onto the school premises at certain stated times. It is for schools to define and set out the extent of such access. Parents exceeding this would be trespassing.

Usually parental access to school premises will be by reference to procedures (e.g. parents may drop off or collect children), appointment, or by invitation (e.g. to a school event).

Parents of younger pupils will commonly be allowed into the playground, or part of the playground, at the beginning and end of the school day. Schools should have an agreed approach on parental access and make it widely known to parents.

Trespassing is a civil offence. Schools can take civil action through the courts to stop persistent trespass.

Schools may write to advise persistent trespassers of the potential offence.

A school may consider that aggressive, abusive or insulting behaviour, or offensive language from a parent presents a risk to staff or pupils. It is enough for a member of staff or a pupil to feel threatened. In such a circumstance, schools have a power in common law to bar the parent from the premises. Schools proposing to implement a bar should do so reasonably, in writing, giving the person concerned a formal opportunity to express their views. Letters relating to barring should usually be signed by the Headteacher. In practice this means that the bar, if immediate, should be provisional until parents have been given the opportunity to make formal representations. The bar can then be confirmed or removed.

Alternatively, the school can serve notice of intent, invite the parent to make representations within a certain deadline and then decide whether or not to bar. Any bar should be subject to review within a reasonable timescale to be stated by the school. Allowing the parent reasonable opportunity to make representations is an essential part of the process and has been upheld as necessary in Court.

General Guidance

Section 547 had been amended under Schedule 20 of the Education Act 2002 and has been widened to be made more useful for educational establishments generally. This schedule extends the provisions to non-maintained special schools, independent schools and local authority-maintained outdoor education centres. As well as extending the scope of the existing provision, it also extends the powers of the police and "persons authorised by

the relevant bodies" responsible for these educational institutions to act. The amendments came into effect in October of 2002.

Legal Toolkit for Schools

In 2002, the government produced a resource for schools. This set out the law with respect to bad behaviour at school by parents and others, offering model letters and a reporting form. The advice, which still remains good, is that all incidents should be logged, just as with pupils. That way information can be built up to assist the school should there become any legal proceedings at a later stage.

Legal Remedies for Schools

The toolkit sets out the legal remedies that the schools have for violence or abuse against members of the school community. These include Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 (as amended above) as well as the following:

Section 222 of The Local Government Act 1972: This gives the local authority the power to prosecute an abusive parent by way of criminal proceedings or alternatively to bring civil proceedings against the parents.

ASBOs, replaced by CBOs, can be sought by the local authority or chief officer of police and could be made in respect of anyone aged 10 or over who has acted in an anti-social manner.

A Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO): This is an order which is available on conviction for any criminal offence by any criminal court, introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (ABCPA 2014, s.22) with effect from 20 October 2014. It replaces the former powers of the court to make orders such as an ASBO or a drinking banning order on conviction. A CBO is an order designed to tackle the most serious and persistent anti-social individuals where their behaviour has brought them before a criminal court. The anti-social behaviour to be addressed does not need to be connected to the criminal behaviour, or activity which led to the conviction.

Protection from Harassment Act 1997: This is known as the Anti-Stalking Legislation, although it is not only used for that purpose. The action can be a criminal prosecution or a civil claim and can be done on behalf of an individual or a group.

Criminal Damages Act 1971: Under this, if the person destroys or damages property belonging to the school, or to a teacher, he or she can be prosecuted for causing criminal damage.

Common assault: Where a member of staff is assaulted by a parent and minor injuries caused, the charge of common assault in accordance with Section 39 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 can be brought. Where the assault occasions actual bodily harm, the offence is brought under Section 47 (or for increasing severity, Sections 20 and 18) of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861.

Offences under the Public Order Act 1986: Unlike the Protection from Harassment Act, one incident alone is sufficient to constitute a public order offence. In these circumstances the local authority or academy does not have the relevant power to take action itself.

Criminal Justice Act 1988: Section 139a of the Act makes it an offence to carry an offensive weapon or knife on school premises. Under section 139b a police officer may enter a school and search for a weapon. A person who has a weapon on school premises will be guilty of an offence, unless he can prove a statutory defence.

The Education Act 2011: This gives new stop and search powers within schools and colleges. Headteachers already have the power to search pupils, but this Act will further extend powers of search and introduce measures to increase the authority of teachers to search pupils without their consent.

Teachers and other school personnel do not have specific protection from the behaviour of parents or other visitors, other than that offered by the general law of the land, but as can be seen there is sufficient legislation for the law to be adapted to the needs of the school.

The staff should remember that they can always use “reasonable force” to protect themselves as individuals and, under threat, the children in their charge and care. The person who can remove a suspected offender or trespasser is either a police constable or an “authorised person”. It is for the school to decide who those authorised persons should be.

It is because this trend of offensive behaviour by parents and others is a growing one that the government has recently “beefed up” Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 and extended the CBOs for both parents and children.

One-off incidents by their very nature cannot be foreseen or guarded against. Difficult or potentially difficult parents are another matter. Although it brings yet another burden to the school, difficult parents should be treated like difficult children. Their behaviour should be logged for every unacceptable incident.

The protection of Section 547 and CBOs is best served by being able to show a history of attempting to manage the behaviour and that this “last straw” incident is then placed thoroughly in its context. The reporting form should be filled in each and every time.