# Scapegoat Hill J & I School



School Road, Scapegoat Hill, Huddersfield HD7 4NU
Telephone: 01484 647008, Email: office@scapegoathill.co.uk
Website: www.scapegoat-hill.kirklees.sch.uk
Headteacher: Miss Natalie Shackleton

# Parent Code of Conduct Policy

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Approved by: | School Governors | Date: 16th October 2026 |
| Last Reviewed on: | October 2026 | Next Review date: October 2027 |

**This Code of Conduct is an unsigned agreement between the Parents, Carers, Visitors and Scapegoat Hill Junior and Infant School**

As a partnership, we are all aware of the importance of good working relationships and all recognise the importance of these relationships to equip our children with the necessary skills for their education.

## Purpose and scope

The purpose of this code of conduct is to provide the expectations around the conduct of all parents, carers and visitors connected to our school. It aims to clarify the types of behaviour that will not be tolerated and seek parental agreement to these expectations. The code of conduct also sets out the actions the school can take, should this code be ignored or where breaches occur. We are committed to constructively resolving difficulties, through an open and positive dialogue. However, we understand that everyday misunderstandings can cause frustrations and have a negative impact on our relationships. Where issues arise or misconceptions take place, please contact your child's teacher or the Headteacher, who will be available to meet with you and go through the issue and hopefully resolve it. Where issues remain unresolved, please follow the school's complaints procedure. This is available on the school website, or a copy can be requested from the school office

**Our expectations of parents and carers:**

We expect parents, carers, and other visitors too:

- Respect the ethos, vision, and values of our school
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils and students
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children
- Maintain reasonable expectations for staff response to general communications
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour
- Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech and behaviour
- Seek a peaceful and reasonable solution to all issues
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue
- Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct
- Approach your class teacher in the first instance to help resolve any issues of concern, following up if an appropriate response has not been received

**To support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following:**

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's normal operations or activities anywhere on the school premises
- Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper
- Threatening in any way, a member of staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer, or child
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Sending abusive or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications (including social media) to anyone within the school community
- Defamatory, offensive, or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff/governors at the school on Facebook or other social media sites
- The use of physical, verbal, or written aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment of your child on school premises
- Approaching someone else's child to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have further consequences)
- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises., (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- If during meetings, staff members feel that parents/carers or visitors are intimidating or rude, then subsequent meetings will only be held with a Senior Leader present

**Inappropriate Use of Social Network Sites**

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, headteachers, school staff, and, in some cases, other parents or pupils. The Department for Education, Government, and Governors of this school consider the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable. Any concerns you may have about the school or your child/children must be made through the appropriate channels — by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher, or the Chair of Governors — where they will be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned

**Parental Use of WhatsApp**

We understand that many parents use WhatsApp or similar messaging apps to communicate with one another. While we support positive and constructive communication between parents, we ask that WhatsApp groups are used respectfully and responsibly

- Please avoid using WhatsApp to discuss issues or concerns about the school, staff or other children
- If you have a concern, contact the school directly via the appropriate channels
- Do not use WhatsApp to share unverified information or spread negativity
- Respect the privacy of others, including refraining from naming children or sharing sensitive incidents

WhatsApp groups should never be used as a platform for complaints, criticisms or debates that could be divisive or inflammatory. Concerns raised in these forums should be redirected through school communication channels so they can be resolved constructively

**Libellous or Defamatory Posts**

In the event that any parent/carer or pupil 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 what content can be posted and provide mechanisms to report content that breaches these terms. The school also expects that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately

**Cyber Bullying**

We take the use of cyberbullying very seriously, whether by a child or a parent, to publicly humiliate another individual by inappropriate social media entry. This will be treated as a serious incident of school bullying. The school will also consider its legal options to deal with any misuse of social networking and other sites

**Breaching the code of conduct**

If this school suspects or becomes aware that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school will:

- Send a warning letter to the parent about their behaviour with the possibility of being banned from school premises
- Invite the parent to school to meet with a senior leader or the headteacher
- If the behaviour continues we can bar someone from our school premises if we feel that their aggressive, abusive or insulting behaviour or language is a risk to staff or pupils. It's enough for a member of staff or a pupil to feel threatened

- tell an individual that they've been barred or they intend to bar them, in writing. Letters will be signed by the headteacher, though in some cases the local authority, academy trust or proprietor may issue the letter

- In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is a serious and potentially criminal matter, the concerns will in the first instance be referred to the Police. This will include any or all cases of threats or violence and actual violence to any child, staff, or governor in the school. This will also include anything that could be seen as a sign of harassment of any member of the school community, such as any form of insulting social media post or any form of social media cyberbullying

- In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is a serious and potentially criminal matter, the concerns will in the first instance be referred to the Police

- In cases where evidence suggests that behaviour would be tantamount to libel or slander, then the school will contact the local authority legal team

**Should any of the above behaviour occur on school premises, the school may take any of the following actions**:

- Ending a meeting if this behaviour is displayed

- Not replying to communications that are offensive, abusive, or derogatory

- Insist that communication with the school is through one member of staff only • Ban the adult from entering the school grounds

**We trust that parents will assist our school with the implementation of this policy, and we thank you for your continuing support of the school. We will always respond to an incident proportionally. The final decision on how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the Headteacher**.

*This model school safeguarding and child protection policy was developed and produced by the learning service in line with DFE guidance*

Controlling access to school premises - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

*Published August 2022*

*Updated August 2023*

*Updated August 2024*

*Updated September 2026*