Bowlee Park Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and Visitors

1. Introduction

This Code of Conduct is an unsigned agreement between parents, carers, visitors and Bowlee Park School. Parents/carers should expect an open and mutually respectful relationship with of our school. They can be confident that, should a concern arise, it will be taken seriously, dealt with in a timely and courteous manner and in line with existing school policies.
We expect visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards other members of the school community. This Code of Conduct highlights positive behaviour that would be expected from visitors to the school and also outlines the steps that will be taken where visitor's behaviour is unacceptable.

Bowlee Park Values

At Bowlee Park, children come first. Working with our values, we aim for our children, families and staff to be at their best more of the time. Our values are:

- **Kindness** – acting with great understanding and care
- **Cooperation** – joining in with others to work and play together
- **Respect** – good manners and courtesy. Consideration for the feelings, rights and beliefs of all people
- **Responsibility** – being answerable for what you say and what you do
- **Resilience** – The ability to recover quickly from difficulty or disappointment and keep on trying.
- **Ambition** – a strong desire for success and achievement

Our values cover all aspects of behaviour and are the basis of all discussions with children about their behaviour. Children are reminded of these values frequently and should understand what they mean through discussions with teachers, teaching assistants and any other staff that support them.

At Bowlee Park, we believe it's important to:

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

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 children (through our schools' own Behaviour policy).

We hope that parents/carers will assist our school with the implementation of this Code of Conduct and we thank you for your continuing support of the school. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the leadership team or the Headteacher, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

This Code of Conduct aims to help the school work together with parents by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour. We use the term 'parents/carers' to refer to:

- Anyone with parental responsibility for a child.
- Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or childminders).

2. Staff expectations

All members of our school community have the right to work without fear of violence and abuse. We expect all our staff to behave professionally at all times and in difficult situations. Our staff will attempt to defuse any situation, seeking the involvement as appropriate of other colleagues.

We expect our staff to:

● Make decisions that are in the best interests of your child.
● Show compassion and understanding.
● Communicate in an appropriate way without shouting or derogatory language.
● Show respect at all times.
● Keep you informed of any relevant information about your child.

In the event that a parent/carer or any other visitor behaves in an unacceptable way either during a telephone conversation or in person, staff at the school have the right to terminate the call/conversation. The incident will be reported by staff to the Senior Leadership Team who will seek to resolve the situation through discussion and mediation. The school reserves the right to take any necessary actions to ensure that members of the school community are not subjected to verbal abuse. The school may warn the aggressor, ban them from the school, and/or contact the Police.

3. Our Expectations of Parents/Carers and Visitors

As well as holding the above principles in mind, parents/carers and visitors are reminded to:

● Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school.
● Work together with staff in the best interests of our children.
● Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with language 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.
● Respect the school environment including keeping the school tidy by not littering.
● Follow parking and cycling rules and doing the right thing when delivering and collecting children from school.
● Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern.

4. Behaviour Expectations

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school will not tolerate parents/carers or visitors exhibiting the following:

● Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's operations or activities, including events on the school grounds and sports team matches.
● Use of inappropriate or offensive language (including swearing) or displaying aggression towards a child, staff member or another adult.
● Threats or threatening behaviour, towards a member of school staff, visitors, fellow parents/carers or a child.
● Damage or destruction of school property.
● Sending abusive or threatening messages to members of the school community, including texts, voicemail, phone, email, the school's parent communication app, or social media.

● Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms, that may be used to fuel campaigns, false news or complaints.
● The use of physical or verbal aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
● Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences.
● Smoking, vaping, possessing or taking illegal drugs, or the consumption of alcohol on the school premises.
● No recording or photography of school staff on our site without direct permission, i.e. only during performances and assemblies and for personal use only, not to be uploaded on to any social media platform.
● Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs).

5. Breaching the Parent Code of Conduct

Should any of the above occur on school premises, the school may feel it is necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities and/or, consider banning the offending adult from entering the school premises. 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, carer or visitor
● Invite the parent, carer or visitor into 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 Authorities legal team 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. Thank you for abiding by this Parent Code of Conduct. Together we create a positive and uplifting environment, not only for the children, but also all who work and visit our school.

January 2025 This Code of Conduct will be reviewed annually.