



Code of Conduct for Parents

Ratified	Review Date
November 2022	November 2024

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

1.1 The governing body of St MacNissi's Primary School encourages close links with parents and the community. It believes that pupils benefit when the relationship between home and school is a positive one.

1.2 The vast majority of parents, carers and others visiting our school are keen to work with us and are supportive of the school. However, on the rare occasions when a negative attitude towards the school is expressed, this can result in aggression, verbal and or physical abuse towards members of school staff or the wider school community.

1.3 The governing body expects and requires its members of staff to behave professionally in these difficult situations and attempt to defuse the situation where possible, seeking the involvement as appropriate of other colleagues. However, all members of staff have the right to work without fear of violence and abuse, and the right, in an extreme case, of appropriate self-defence.

1.4 We expect parents and other visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards members of school staff. This policy outlines the steps that will be taken where behaviour is unacceptable.

1.5 Types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable and will not be tolerated:

- shouting at members of the school staff, either in person or over the telephone;
- physically intimidating a member of staff, e.g. standing very close to her/him;
- the use of aggressive hand gestures;
- threatening behaviour;
- any aggressive behaviours directed towards **anyone** on the school premises
- shaking or holding a fist towards another person;
- swearing;
- pushing;
- hitting, eg slapping, punching and kicking;
- spitting;
- breaching the school's security procedures.

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour.

1.6 Unacceptable behaviour may result in the Education Authority and the police being informed of the incident.

2. PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED

2.1 If a parent/carer behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of the school community, principal or appropriate senior staff will seek to resolve the situation through discussion and mediation. If necessary, the school's complaints procedures should be followed. Where all procedures have been exhausted, and aggression or intimidation continue, or where there is an extreme act of violence, a parent or carer may be banned by the principal or the Governing Body, from the school premises for a period of time, subject to review.

2.2 In imposing a ban the following steps will be taken:

1. The parent/carer will be informed, in writing, that she/he is banned from the premises, subject to review, and what will happen if the ban is breached, e.g. that police involvement or an injunction application may follow
2. Where an assault has led to a ban, a statement indicating that the matter has been reported to the local authority and the police will be included
3. The Education Authority will be informed of the ban.
4. Where appropriate, arrangements for pupils being delivered to, and collected from the school gate will be clarified.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Where behaviour is unacceptable or there are serious breaches of our home-school code of conduct or health and safety legislation, further action may be taken by PSNI or other governing bodies. In implementing this policy, the school will, as appropriate, seek

advice from the Education Authority's education, health and safety and legal departments, to ensure fairness and consistency.

Mrs Irene Culleton
Chairperson of the Board of Governors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Culleton', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Mrs J Baxter
Acting Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Baxter', written in a cursive style.