

Managing aggressive behaviour from parents and visitors to our school

Statement of principles

The Governing Board of Cox Green 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.

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.

The Governing Board 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.

We expect parents and other visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards members of school staff.

The Governors and the Headteacher will not tolerate acts of aggression or intimidation, verbal or physical, against staff from any person.

In the case of incidents of violence or abusive behaviour against staff the school reserves the right to inform and/or call the police. Should members of staff be subjected to violence they will receive all the support needed from Cox Green School in accordance with the procedures on violence or abusive behaviour in the workplace.

All incidents are to be reported to School Reception immediately so that a member of the Senior Leadership Team can be contacted, or when needed to call the police.

Barring Individuals

Cox Green School is private property. People do not have an automatic right to enter.

Parents have an 'implied licence' to come on to school premises:

- for appointments
- to attend a school event
- to deliver or collect items
- to make enquiries at School Reception

Individuals who come onto the Cox Green School site outside of these times may be trespassing.

Cox Green School staff can ask someone to leave the premises and take civil action in the courts if someone trespasses regularly. The Headteacher will write to regular trespassers to tell them that they are potentially committing an offence and reserves the right to inform the police.

The Headteacher, or their representative, will bar an individual from the premises if they feel that their aggressive, abusive or insulting behaviour or language is a risk to staff or pupils or that staff feel

threatened. This decision has been delegated to the Headteacher by the Governing Board.

The Headteacher will tell an individual that they have been barred or they intend to bar them, in writing signed by the Headteacher or the Chair of the Board of Governors.

The individual will be allowed to present their side. The Headteacher will either:

- bar them temporarily, until the individual has had the opportunity to formally present their side
- tell them they intend to bar them and invite them to present their side by a set deadline.

After the individual's side has been heard, the Headteacher will decide whether to continue with barring them.

The decision will be reviewed annually after the date of the letter informing the individual of the decision.

Trespassing is a civil offence. If Cox Green School has reasonable grounds to suspect that someone has committed a criminal offence then the police will be called.

Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 makes it a criminal offence for a person who is on school premises without legal permission to cause or permit a nuisance or disturbance. Trespassing itself does not constitute a criminal offence.

To have committed a criminal offence, an abusive individual must have been barred from the premises or have exceeded their 'implied licence', then also have caused a nuisance or disturbance.

If a school has reasonable grounds to suspect that someone has committed an offence, then they can be removed from the school by a police officer or a person authorised by the appropriate authority such as the:

- Governing Board
- Local Authority
- proprietor of that school

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