

Staffordshire University Academies Trust		Trust Policy Document	
Approved by:	Trust Board		Last reviewed: October 2023
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Audience:	Trustees <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pupils <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Academy Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Parents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Parent/Carer/Visitor Code of Conduct

At Staffordshire University Academies Trust, we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents/carers recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents/carers, class teachers and the academy community. As a partnership, our parents will understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons, we continue to welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate in the life of our academies.

The purpose of this document is to communicate to all parents, carers, and visitors to our academies about expected conduct. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress, and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Guidance

We expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Adhere to Academy and SUAT policies, procedures & protocols (all available on website via www.suatrust.co.uk)
- Respect the caring ethos of the academy that their child attends
- Understand that both teachers and parents/carers need to work together for the benefit of children
- Demonstrate that all members of the academy community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the academy's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue
- Correct their own child's behaviour where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour
- Approach the academy calmly to resolve any issues of concern
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour

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

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, an employee's office or any other area of an academy's grounds.
- Using loud or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Using racist and/or discriminatory language or behaviours.
- Spitting.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of academy staff, governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil, regardless of whether the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Damaging or destroying academy property.

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- Abusive or threatening e-mails, texts, voicemails, phone messages or other written communication.
- Recording any staff member, whether this be via video footage or voice notes.
- Defamatory, offensive, or derogatory comments regarding an academy, the Trust, or any of the pupils/parents/staff at the school on Facebook or other social sites (See Appendix 1). Any concerns that a parent/carer/visitor may have about an academy must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, academy leaders, the Principal or the Chair of our Local Academy Council so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned. Any complaints must follow the appropriate procedure via our Complaints Policy, which is located on the Trust website.
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on academy 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 and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on academy property.

Should **any** of the above behaviours occur on academy premises, the academy and / or Trust may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and, if necessary, ban the offending person from entering the academy grounds.

We trust that parents, carers and visitors will assist our academy with the implementation of this policy as it allows us all to put our energies into the education and well-being of children and we thank you for your continuing support in this.

Appendix 1

Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated at an academy 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, or the police if necessary, by the academy. All social network sites have clear rules about the content that can be posted on the site, and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity that breaches this. The academy will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil remove such comments immediately.

In serious cases, the academy and/or Trust 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 and/or disrespect another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident and investigate bullying. Thankfully, such incidents are extremely rare.

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We would expect that parents/carers would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.