



Code of Conduct for Parents,  
Carers and Visitors

The Axholme Academy

Summer 2025

Next review: Summer 2028

At The Axholme Academy we value our strong relationship with parents/carers and visitors. By working together this helps us to achieve the very best for students in a mutually supportive partnership between parents/carers, teaching staff and the Academy community.

We also strive to make our Academy a place where as adults we model for students the behaviour we teach and expect. As an Academy we highly value Parental Engagement in learning and we know the quality of the home-school relationship is associated with improved academic outcomes at all ages.

The evidence suggests that three areas are particularly worth focusing on:

- Supporting parents/carers to have high academic expectations for their children;
- Developing and maintaining communication with parents/carers about Academy activities and subject work; and
- Promoting the development of reading habits.

We are very fortunate as an Academy to have strong relationships with extremely supportive parents/carers. We value all that our parents/carers do to support the Academy and in turn we try to do all we can to work collaboratively with parents/carers. Almost all parents, carers and visitors to The Axholme Academy are keen to work with us and are supportive of the Academy. However, on very rare occasions the behaviour of a small number of parents/carers falls short of what we expect. This sometimes manifests itself in aggression or abuse towards members of the Academy community. This unacceptable behaviour can be in written communication (including social media), on the telephone or in face-to-face incidents.

**At The Axholme Academy parents/carers, carers and visitors are reminded:**

- To respect the caring ethos and values of the school
- That both staff and parents/carers need to work together for the benefit of their children
- That approaching school staff for help to resolve an issue is done in an appropriate manner
- That all members of the school community are treated with respect using appropriate language and behaviour
- The Academy needs to work with a child in order to clarify their version of events in order to bring about an appropriate solution to an issue
- To correct their child's actions especially where it could lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour – both on and off the Academy premises

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 operation or activities anywhere on the school premises
- Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises
- Any kind of physical abuse
- Using offensive or profane language or displaying temper
- Raising of voice so as to be intimidating

- Threatening, in any way, a member of Academy staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or student Physical intimidation (e.g. by standing very close to him/her or the use of aggressive hand gestures)
- Damaging or destroying Academy property
- Sending abusive or threatening/aggressive emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications to anyone within the Academy community
- Any kind of insult as an attempt to demean, embarrass or undermine
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding The Axholme Academy or any of The Axholme Academy students/parents/carers or staff on social media
- Approaching a student in order to discuss or chastise them because of an incident involving their own child and the student

Should any of the above occur on Academy premises the Academy may feel it necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities and/or consider banning the offending adult from entering the Academy premises. Please refer to the Dealing with Abusive Parents policy.

### **Guidelines when emailing members of staff**

At The Axholme Academy we would ask that parents/carers are aware of the following with regard to email correspondence. When emailing staff please ensure that the tone is not aggressive or accusatory. If you are unsure about an event involving your child, please ask the school for clarification as it will be the case that the school will have taken a particular stance for a reason. When emailing into members of staff or the generic email address please be aware that response time will be within 24/48 hours – staff will not be expected to respond outside school operation hours (staff discretion will be used if an email is responded to within these times). Where possible please use your academy parent/Carer email address for email communications.

### **Guidelines when arranging a meeting to see a member of staff:**

- To make an appointment to see a member of staff please contact reception, where details will be passed onto the relevant member of staff to make contact with yourself to arrange a mutual time at their convenience – staff are not always readily available to see parents/carers/visitors therefore please do not expect to see the relevant member of staff instantly.
- Staff will contact you within 24/48 hours in order to make an appointment and you can expect this appointment (unless there are unexpected circumstances) to take place within 7 working days.
- Parents/carers must not arrive unannounced at the Academy demanding to see a member of staff under any circumstances

### **The Academy's approach to dealing with incidents:**

This policy has been written taking into account the DfE Guidance 'Controlling access to school premises' November 2018 as well as NAHT guidance on dealing with abusive parents.

Almost all parents, carers and visitors to The Axholme Academy are keen to work with us and are supportive of the school. However, on very rare occasions the behaviour of a small number of parents falls short of what we expect. This sometimes manifests itself in aggression or abuse towards members of the school community. This can be in written communication (including social media), on the telephone or in face-to-face incidents.

In these situations we expect members of staff to behave professionally, attempting to defuse the situation where possible and seeking the involvement as appropriate of other colleagues. Staff who face these situations have licence to end any conversation (face to face or on the telephone). They should then refer the incident to a member of the senior leadership team who will take appropriate action or invoke the provisions of this policy.

The overriding principle is, however, that all members of the school community have the right to work or be in school without fear of aggression or abuse from parents. The Governing Board has a requirement to protect staff and students from such aggression.

The progress and well-being of the parent's child(ren) will be fully considered. Actions taken against the parent will be reasonable and proportionate. The parent will have the opportunity to put their views forward at every stage. In the case of the imposition of conditions or a ban from school, robust review processes involving the Chair of Governors and then the Governing Board are in place to ensure fairness.

### **Definition of unacceptable behaviour**

We consider that aggressive, abusive or insulting behaviour or language from a parent presents a risk to staff or students. Unacceptable behaviour is such that makes a member of staff or student feel threatened. This can be through face-to-face contact, on the telephone or in written communication (including social media). The following is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour:

- any kind of insult as an attempt to demean, embarrass or undermine
- any kind of threat
- raising of voice so as to be intimidating
- physical intimidation, eg by standing very close to him/her or the use of aggressive hand gestures
- use of foul or abusive language
- any kind of physical abuse
- allegations which turn out to be vexatious or malicious.

### **The school's approach to dealing with incidents**

If a parent/carer/visitor behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of the school community, the Principal or appropriate member of SLT will assess the level of risk before deciding on a future course of action. The course of action will be reasonable and commensurate with the assessed level of risk.

## **Risk Assessment**

The Principal will carry out a risk assessment in order to help make a decision about the level of response. In all cases the response will be reasonable and proportionate. The Principal will consider the following questions:

- What form did the abuse take?
- What evidence is there?
- What do witnesses say happened?
- Are there previous incidents to take into consideration?
- Do members of staff/students feel intimidated by the parent's behaviour?
- Is there any evidence of provocation?
- How high is the assessed risk that this will be repeated or there will be retaliation at the school's action? (low, medium, high).

## **Recording of Incidents**

Staff/students subject to abuse and witnesses will make written statements about incident(s) which will be kept in a file with subsequent letters. This file will be kept by the Principal. Depending on an assessment of the risk of retaliation to witnesses or individuals, statements made by adults may be made available to the parent if they request it.

## **The School's response**

Following the completion of the risk assessment, the Principal will decide the level of action to be taken. Actions will include the following:

### *1. Clarify to the parent what is considered acceptable behaviour by the school*

In some instances it may be appropriate simply to ensure the parent is clear about behaviour standards expected by the school. This could be explained by a letter from the Principal. This letter may contain a warning about further action if there are further incidents. The parent will be invited to write to the Principal with his/her version of events within 10 working days. Depending on the parent's response a meeting may then be held to discuss the situation and how this can be avoided in future.

### *2. Invite the parent to an informal meeting to discuss events*

This could be helpful to discuss and diffuse the situation.

The safety and well-being of those attending such a meeting must be carefully considered. Members of school staff will always be accompanied by at least one other colleague at any such meeting. Consideration should be given to the seating arrangements, and care taken to ensure exits cannot be blocked by a parent who could potentially become aggressive.

The main points of discussion and any agreed actions should be noted, and a follow-up letter or e-mail sent to confirm the school's expectations and any agreed actions.

### *3. Impose conditions on the parent's contact with the school and its staff*

Although fulfilling a public function, schools are private places. The public has no automatic right of entry. Parents of enrolled students have an 'implied licence' to come onto school premises at certain stated times. It is for schools to define and set out the extent of such access. Parents exceeding this would be trespassing.

Depending on the type, level or frequency of the unacceptable behaviour, the school may consider imposing conditions on the parent's contact with the school. These conditions may include (but are not exclusively):

- being accompanied to any meeting with a member of school staff by a member of SLT
- restricting contact by telephone to named members of the senior leadership team
- restricting written communications to named members of the senior leadership team
- restricting attendance at school events to those where the parent will be accompanied by a member of the senior leadership of the school
- any other restriction as deemed reasonable and proportionate by the Principal.

In this case the parent will be informed by letter from the Principal the details of the conditions that are being imposed. The parent would then be given 10 working days from the date of that letter to make representations in writing about the conditions to the Chair of Governors. The Chair of Governors would then decide whether to confirm or remove the conditions. This would be communicated to the parent in writing within 10 working days of the date of the parent's letter.

If the decision is to confirm the conditions imposed, this decision will be reviewed by the Governing Board after approximately six months (and every six months after that, if appropriate). The parent will be invited to make written representation to the Governors. This and the evidence from the Headteacher will be considered at a meeting of the full Governing Board. Governors may decide to maintain, extend or remove the conditions. The decision of the review will be communicated to the parent by the clerk to the Trustees within 10 days of the date of the meeting.

When deciding whether it will be necessary to maintain, extend or remove the conditions, Governors will give consideration to the extent of the parent's compliance with the conditions, any appropriate expressions of regret and assurance of future good conduct received from him/her and any evidence of the parent's co-operation with the school in other respects.

### *4. Imposing a ban*

Where other procedures have been exhausted and aggression or intimidation continues OR where there is an extreme act of violence then the school may consider banning the individual from school premises. This will include banning a parent from accessing school staff by written communication or telephone.

In these circumstances, the individual would be advised in writing by the Principal that a provisional ban is being imposed. The parent would then be given 10 working days from the date of that letter to make representations about the ban in writing to the Chair of Governors. The Chair of Governors would then decide whether to confirm or remove the ban. This would be communicated to the parent in writing within 10 working days of the receipt of their letter.

If the Chair's decision is to confirm the ban, parents in these circumstances will be offered an annual meeting about their child's progress, usually with a member of senior staff.

A decision to impose a ban will be reviewed by the Governing Board after approximately six months (and every six months after that, if appropriate). The parent will be invited to make written representation to the Governors; this and the evidence from the Principal will be considered at a meeting of the full Governing Board. Governors may decide to remove the ban, extend the ban or impose conditions on parent's access to the school. The decision of the review will be communicated to the parent by the clerk to the Trustees within 10 days of the date of the meeting.

In deciding whether to remove or extend the ban or impose conditions, Governors will give consideration to the extent of the parent's compliance with the ban, any appropriate expressions of regret and assurance of future good conduct received from him/her and any evidence of the parent's co-operation with the school in other respects.

#### *5. Removal from school*

Parents who have been banned from the school premises and continue to cause a nuisance will be deemed to have committed a section 547 offence. They will be considered as trespassers. In these circumstances the offender may be removed from school. This may be carried out by a police officer or person authorised by the Governing Board. Legal proceedings may be brought against the parent.

#### *6. Complaints policy*

Any parental complaint that arises from incidents of abusive behaviour will be dealt with under the complaints policy.

#### *7. Monitoring by the Governing Board*

This policy is reviewed by the school's Governing Board every three years.

All actions taken under this policy are also monitored by the Governing Board. Details of incidents are reported to the Governors as part of the Principal's report to Governor meetings, which take place six times per year. Parents' names and details are not identified to the board. This policy also relates to the academy Code of conduct and conduct for parents, Carers and Visitors.

## **Appendices**

### *Warning*

Model letter 1: This is an initial letter from the Principal to ensure the parent is clear about behaviour standards expected by the school. This letter contains a warning about further action if there are other incidents. The letter invites a written response and suggests a meeting.

### *Imposing conditions on the parent's attendance at school events*

Model letter 2: This is a letter from the Principal informing parents of the school's decision to impose conditions on the parent's attendance at school events, pending review by the Chair of Governors

Model letter 3: Letter from the Chair of Governors informing parent of her decision to confirm or remove the conditions

### *Imposing a ban*

Model letter 4: Letter from Principal informing parents of the school's intention to impose a ban on their attendance at school premises, pending review by the Chair of Governors

Model letter 5: Letter from the Chair of Governors informing parent of her decision to confirm or remove ban

### *Reviewing the decision to impose conditions or impose a ban*

Model Letter 6: Letter from clerk to Trustees requesting statement from parents to Governing Board for review of decision.

Model letter 7: Letter from clerk to the Trustees to confirm the outcome of further reviews of decisions where the imposition of conditions/ban has been extended or removed.

*Model Letter 1 Warning (sent by Principal)*

Recorded delivery

Dear XXX

I have received a report about your conduct at the school on (enter date and time or details). This appears to fall far short of that we would expect of a parent of a student at The Axholme Academy

(Add factual summary of the incident and of its effect on staff, pupils, and other parents.)

I must inform you that the Governing Board will not tolerate aggression towards members of the school community and will act to protect its staff and students from any form of abuse or intimidation. I should warn you that any future conduct of this nature could result in the school imposing conditions restricting your access to the school or banning you from contacting or attending the school altogether.

I wish to give you an opportunity to give me in writing any comments or observations of your own in relation to the report which I have received about your conduct. Please do so within 10 working days of the date of this letter. These comments may include any assurances you are prepared to give about your future good conduct. There is then an option for us to meet to discuss the situation and how it can be avoided in the future.

Details of our policy on dealing with abusive parents can be found on our website.

Yours sincerely

Principal

cc: Chair of Governors

*Model Letter: 2 Imposing conditions on the parent's attendance at school events, pending review (sent by Principal)*

Recorded delivery

Dear I have received a report from the (name of staff) about your conduct on  
..... at .....

(add summary of incident and its effect on staff and pupils)

(You will recollect that I have already written to you about a previous incident on (date) warning you of the consequence of any further insulting or aggressive behaviour on your part)

I must inform you that the Governors, in line with our policy, will not tolerate conduct of this nature on the school premises and will act to defend school staff and students.

I am therefore writing to inform you that I am imposing conditions on the contact you may have with school. These are as follows: (delete as appropriate)

- You must be accompanied to any meeting with a member of school staff
- You may not contact by telephone or in writing any member of staff.
- You may contact either myself or (Vice Principal).
- You may not attend any events for parents except those where you will be accompanied by a member of the senior leadership of the school.
- Other as are reasonable and proportionate

The restrictions above are provisional until they have been reviewed by the Chair of Governors. Please consider them to be in force until you receive her confirmation.

The Chair of Governors, (name), will need to decide whether it is appropriate to confirm or overturn this decision. You may, if you wish, send her in writing any comments or observations of your own within 10 working days of the date of this letter. These comments may be to challenge or explain the facts of the incident, to express regret and give assurances about your future good conduct. She will then write to you with the outcome of her decision.

If on receipt of your comments, the Chair of Governors considers that my decision should be confirmed, you will be supplied with details of how the conditions will be reviewed by the Governing Board.

Yours sincerely

Principal  
cc: Chair of Governors

*Model Letter 3: Letter to confirm or overturn Principal's decision to impose conditions (sent by Chair of Governors)*

Recorded delivery

Dear

The Principal wrote to you on (date) to detail concerns about an incident when your behaviour towards (name) fell short of what we would expect as a school. You will be aware that she has written to you previously about your behaviour towards staff.

I have not received a written response from you/I have received a letter from you dated ....., the contents of which I have considered carefully.

In the circumstances, and after further consideration of the Principal's report and your letter, I have determined that the decision to impose conditions on your contact with school should be confirmed. The conditions are as follows:

- (Copy conditions from Principal's letter)

This decision will be reviewed by the Governing Board in approximately six months' time. The Clerk to the Trustees will write to you in advance of the meeting to ask you to provide a written statement for their consideration. When deciding whether it will be necessary to extend the application of conditions to attend school premises, consideration will be given to the extent of your compliance with the decision, any appropriate expressions of regret and assurance of future good conduct received from you; and any evidence of your co-operation with the school in other respects.

OR

In the circumstances, and after further consideration of the Principal's report and your letter, I have determined that the decision to impose conditions on you should be overturned. You may hence attend school events as normal. However, should there be a repeat of inappropriate behaviour towards staff all of the above sanctions may be applied.

Yours sincerely

Chair of Governors  
cc: Principal

*Model Letter 4: Imposition of a ban on contacting or attending the school, pending review  
(sent by Principal)*

Recorded delivery

Dear I have received a report from the (name of staff) about your conduct on  
..... at .....

(add summary of incident and its effect on staff and pupils)

You will recollect that I have already written to you about a previous incident on (date) warning you of the consequence of any further insulting or aggressive behaviour on your part.

I must inform you that the Governors, in line with our policy, will not tolerate conduct of this nature on the school premises and will act to defend school staff and students.

I am therefore writing to inform you that I am recommending imposing a ban on you attending or contacting the school. This means you may not attend school for any reason whatsoever. You must not make contact with any member of staff by telephone or e-mail. You do, however, have the right to attend one meeting per year to discuss your child's progress. This meeting will be with me. I will contact you to arrange this at the time of the next Academic Review Day.

The restrictions above are provisional until they have been reviewed by the Chair of Governors. Please consider them to be in force until you receive her confirmation.

The Chair of Governors, (name) will need to decide whether it is appropriate to confirm or overturn this decision. Please send her, in writing, any comments or observations of your own within 10 working days of the date of this letter. These comments may be to challenge or explain the facts of the incident, to express regret and give assurances about your future good conduct.

If on receipt of your comments, the Chair of Governors considers that my decision should be confirmed, you will be supplied with details of how this ban will be reviewed by the Governing Board.

Yours sincerely

Principal  
cc: Chair of Governors

*Model Letter 5: Letter to confirm or overturn Principal's decision to impose a ban (sent by Chair of Governors)*

Recorded delivery

Dear

The Principal, Principal, wrote to you on (date) to detail concerns about an incident when your behaviour towards (name) fell far short of what we would expect as a school. You will be aware that she has written to you previously about your behaviour towards staff.

I have not received a written response from you/I have received a letter from you dated ....., the contents of which I have considered carefully.

In the circumstances, and after further consideration of the Principal's report and your letter, I have determined that the decision to impose a ban on you should be confirmed. This means you may not attend school for any reason whatsoever. You must not make contact with any member of staff by telephone or e-mail. You do, however, have the right to attend one meeting per year to discuss your child's progress. This meeting will be with The Principal or a member of the senior team.

This decision will be reviewed in six months' time by the Governing Board. The Clerk to the Trustees will write to you in advance of the meeting of the Governing Board to ask you to provide a written statement for their consideration. When deciding whether it will be necessary to extend the application of conditions to attend school premises, consideration will be given to the extent of your compliance with the decision, any appropriate expressions of regret and assurance of future good conduct received from you and any evidence of your cooperation with the school in other respects.

OR

In the circumstances, and after further consideration of the Principal's report and your letter, I have determined that the decision to impose a ban should be overturned. You may hence attend school events as normal. However, should there be a repeat of inappropriate behaviour towards staff all of the above sanctions may be applied.

Yours sincerely

Chair of Governors  
cc: Principal

*Model Letter 6: Letter from clerk to the Trustees requesting parents' statement for review by BoT (sent by clerk to Trustees)*

Recorded delivery

Dear

The Principal, Principal, wrote to you on (date) to detail concerns about your behaviour towards school staff/students fell short of what we would expect as a school. As a result of this incident, conditions were imposed on you/a ban was imposed.

This decision will be reviewed by the Governing Board at their next meeting on (date).

I am writing to ask whether you would like to make a written statement to the Governors for their consideration in making the decision whether to remove the restriction or extend it.

If you should wish to make a written statement, please can you e-mail it to me at (address) by (date – parents should be given 10 days to respond).

Yours sincerely

Clerk to Trustees  
cc: Principal

*Model Letter 7: Letter detailing outcome of Governing Board review (sent by Clerk to Trustees)*

Dear

I wrote to you on (date) to request a statement to enable Governors to review the school's decision to impose conditions/ban you from attending school premises.

I have not received a written response from you/I have received a letter from you dated ....., the contents of which were considered carefully by the Governors at their meeting on (date).

In the circumstances, and after further consideration of the Principal's report (and your letter), Governors have determined that the decision to impose conditions/ban you from attending or contacting school should be confirmed. The conditions of your attendance on site are as follows:

- You must be accompanied to any meeting with a member of school staff
- You may not contact by telephone or in writing any member of staff. You may contact either The Principal or (Vice Principal)
- You may not attend any events for parents except those where you will be accompanied by a member of the senior leadership of the school.
- Any other condition imposed

OR

- You must not attend any event in school except for an annual meeting about your child's progress. This meeting will be conducted by The Principal.
- You may not contact by telephone or in writing any member of staff.

This decision will be reviewed again in six months' time. When deciding whether it will be necessary to extend the application of conditions to attend school premises, consideration will be given to the extent of your compliance with the decision, any appropriate expressions of regret and assurance of future good conduct received from you; and any evidence of your cooperation with the school in other respects.

OR

In the circumstances, and after further consideration of the Principal's report and your letter, Governors have determined that you should once again be allowed to attend parents' events as usual. All conditions have been removed. However, should there be a repeat of inappropriate behaviour towards staff this decision may be revoked.

Yours sincerely

Clerk to Trustees  
cc: Principal