



TITLE: PARENT, CARER & VISITOR BEHAVIOUR POLICY

MODEL POLICY STATEMENT

This is **not** a Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust model policy

Policy Owner:	Principal	Review period:	Biennial
Last Review:	New policy	Approving Committee:	School Improvement 04 December 2019
Next Review:	Autumn term 2021	Latest FGB adoption:	11. 12. 2019

Public Sector Equality Duty

This policy is written with due regard for the public sector equality duty that is placed on all schools. Tavistock College will make reasonable adjustments for members of the school community with SEND and protected characteristics and guard against discriminatory practices and victimisation to ensure no-one is treated unfairly.

Parent, carer and visitor behavior policy

Rationale:

At Tavistock College, we believe staff, governors, parents, carers, visitors and students are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to learn and work. Any behaviour that may cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the premises is contrary to the values and aims of the school. All members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect.

Expectations:

- All parents, carers and visitors should set a good example to Tavistock College students, showing them how to get along with all members of the academy and the wider community.
- No members of staff, governors, parents, carers, visitors or students should be the victims of abusive or threatening behaviour from adults on the academy premises, in the community or on social network sites.
- Victims and perpetrators of any kind of abuse will be expected to cooperate with any investigation that may arise from behaviours perceived to cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the premises

Actions:

The academy premises are private property and parents, carers and visitors have been granted permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, governors, students or other parents, carers and visitors, Tavistock College will take action against the perpetrator.

If the behaviour has been deemed to be unacceptable, the adult will be spoken to immediately and the issue investigated by a school leader. This will be reported to the Principal and recorded. The adult will receive a warning letter from the academy. An adult found to be using inappropriate behaviour towards other adults or students after a first warning may be banned from entering the academy site. This may be a temporary measure, or a permanent one depending on the nature of the incident.

It is an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996 for any person (including a parent/carer/adult) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on the academy premises. The police may be called to assist in removing the person concerned.

Guidelines:

Types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable and will not be tolerated towards any member of the academy community:

- Shouting, either in person or over the telephone.
- Inappropriate posting on Social Networking sites which could bring the academy or a staff member into disrepute or be deemed as bullying (see below)
- Speaking in an aggressive/threatening tone.
- Physically intimidating , e.g. standing very close.
- The use of aggressive hand gestures/exaggerated movements.
- Physical threats.
- Shaking or holding a fist towards another person.
- Swearing.
- Pushing.
- Hitting e.g. slapping, punching or kicking.
- Spitting.
- Racist, homophobic, transphobic or sexist comments including sexual innuendo.

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of behaviour that will not be tolerated.

Inappropriate use of Social Networking Sites:

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, school staff, and in some cases, other parents, carers, visitors and students. Tavistock College considers the use of social media being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole community.

Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to an appropriate member of staff such as a Head of Year, members of the Senior Leadership Team, or the Principal so that issues can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any student, parent, or carer of a student being educated at Tavistock College 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. All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent, carer or student removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases or repeat offences, the academy 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 cyberbullying and the use by one student or a parent/carer/adult to publicly humiliate a member of staff or another student, parent, carer by an inappropriate social network entry. This type of unacceptable behaviour may result in the Police being informed.



Tavistock College reserves the right to take any necessary actions to ensure that members of the school community are not subjected to abuse.