



St Mary Abbot's Church of England Primary School

Banning of Parents Policy

This policy was written and adopted on: October 2018

The policy to be reviewed by: October 2020

PRINCIPLES

We are committed to:

- Providing a safe environment for students and staff, ensuring that all aspects of safeguarding, health and safety, duty of care and well-being are paramount in the school's planning and organization.
- Involving parents in all aspects of their child's development and time at the school. This relationship begins with the Home/School Agreement on entry to the school.
- Complying with all relevant sections of the Education Act 1996 in relation to commitment with parents and carers.

- We ensure that all parents are kept informed of developments at the school through our weekly newsletters and our website.
- We build meaningful relationships with our parents that place the success and well-being of their child at the heart of conversation and planning.
- Ultimately place our duty of care for the child at the forefront of our work; this may result in our needing to challenge parents or involve outside agencies where we have a given concern.
- Ban parents where they are not compliant with published and statutory requirements.
- Resort only to a ban where other processes have been exhausted and / or when relevant Senior Leaders feel unable to ensure a duty of care for members of the school community and / or where health and safety is endangered.
- Utilize, where and when necessary, the school's authority in relation to parent contracts and parent orders.
- Publish clearly our Complaints Policy and guidance on how to contact the school.

1. THE RIGHT OF PARENTS

- 1.1 Parents do not have an absolute right to come onto the school site; school premises are not public spaces. Parents have a right to attend and enter school premises for

legitimate and proper purposes. To this extent they have greater access rights than the general public but they are not absolute.

- 1.2 School will determine when a parent may enter the school site. In order to provide parents time to plan such visits, school events are indicated in our annual calendar or through individual invitation.

2. BANNING A PARENT FROM SITE

- 2.1 The day to day control over the school lies with the Governing Body and it is they who make any decision pertaining to a ban. On a short term basis, the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher may impose a temporary ban.

3. BEHAVIOUR LEADING TO A BAN

- 3.1 Any sort of behaviour can lead to the decision to ban a parent depending on the seriousness of it. Most commonly such behaviour may be: threatening, violent (towards staff, students or other parents), damage to property, refusal to leave when asked, disruption of the running of the school, general abusiveness.
- 3.2 The Head/Deputy Head must decide whether the situation has escalated to the point of considering a ban and will send (other than in extreme cases which immediately compromise health and safety / duty of care) a warning letter saying that any repeat of such behaviour could lead to a ban.
- 3.3 The school will remain mindful that it will be required, to the best of its ability, to maintain a working relationship with the parent if the child remains at the school.

4. THE PROCESS

- 4.1 The school will ensure that those involved in the incident, or witnesses, make a written record as soon as possible and whilst recollection of the incident is clear.
- 4.2 The Head/Deputy Head will consider all of the available facts before proceeding.
- 4.3 Once a decision is reached the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher will write to the parent advising them of the decision and explaining that a panel of Governors will consider the ban.
- 4.4 The parent will be given a 7 day period to respond in writing, to give their version of events and state why they should not be banned.
- 4.5 The parent has no right to attend the Governors' meeting; the key is that the parent has had the opportunity to present their case in writing.
- 4.6 Whilst waiting for the above panel to convene, the Head/Deputy Head may impose a temporary ban.

- 4.7 The Governors will be provided with all available evidence, including the written response from the parent.
- 4.8 Where facts are disputed, events must be proved, '*on the balance of probabilities*'.
- 4.9 The Governors' Panel will decide whether to impose a ban. It is recommended that initial bans do not exceed six months unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- 4.10 The Governors will advise the parent in writing of this decision within 3 working days.

5. AFTER THE BAN HAS BEEN IMPOSED

- 5.1 A review process will be put in place and involve a meeting of relevant senior staff and the parent concerned.
- 5.2 Arrangements will be made to ensure that an appropriate line of communication is available to the parent and that their child is not at risk (e.g. effective arrangements for the delivery and collection of children from school).
- 5.3 A point of contact (a senior member of school staff) will be identified for the parent to enable ongoing communication. Where possible, such communication will be in writing.

6. APPEAL

- 6.1 There is no internal right to appeal a ban.

7. THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

- 7.1 The school will ensure that relevant senior officers at the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea are involved and informed where concerns arise.
- 7.2 The school will seek legal advice from the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea before imposing any ban.