

MANAGING VIOLENT AND ABUSIVE VISITORS TO SCHOOL POLICY

Statement of Principles

The Governing Body of Ampney Crucis Primary 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 Body 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, and the right, in an extreme case, of appropriate self-defence.

We expect parents and other visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards members of school staff. This policy outlines the steps that will be taken where behaviour is unacceptable.

Types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable and will not be tolerated:

- shouting at members of the school staff, either in person or over the telephone
- physically intimidating a member of staff, eg standing very close to her/him
- the use of aggressive hand gestures
- threatening behaviour
- shaking or holding a fist towards another person
- swearing
- pushing
- hitting, e.g. slapping, punching and kicking
- spitting
- breaching the school's security procedures

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour.

Unacceptable behaviour may result in the local authority and the police being informed of the incident.

Procedure to be followed

If a parent/carer behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of the school community, the

Headteacher or appropriate senior staff will seek to resolve the situation through discussion and mediation. If necessary, the school's complaints procedures should be followed. Where all procedures have been exhausted, and aggression or intimidation continue, or where there is an extreme act of violence, a parent or carer may be banned by the Headteacher from the school premises for a period of time, subject to review.

In imposing the ban the following steps will be taken:

1. The parent/carer will be informed, in writing, that she/he is banned from the premises, subject to review, and what will happen if the ban is breached, eg that police involvement or an injunction application may follow.
2. Where an assault has led to a ban, a statement indicating that the matter has been reported to the local authority and the police will be included.
3. The chair of Governors/Local Authority will be informed of the ban.
4. Where appropriate, arrangements for pupils being delivered to and collected from the school gate will be clarified.

Conclusion

The Local Authority itself may take action where behaviour is unacceptable or there are serious breaches of our home-school code of conduct or health and safety legislation. In implementing this policy, the school will, as appropriate, seek advice from the Local Authority's education, health and safety and legal departments, to ensure fairness and consistency.

| AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR FROM PARENTS AND SCHOOL VISITORS INCIDENT REPORT FORM | |
|--|--|
| DATE INCIDENT REPORTED | |
| DATE OF INCIDENT: | |
| TIME OF INCIDENT: | |
| NAME OF PERSON REPORTING INCIDENT: | |
| NAME(S) OF PERSON(S) CAUSING INCIDENT: | |
| STATUS: Parent/carer/visitor/trespasser Contact details | |
| FULL DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: (name of persons involved, location, nature of injuries, attendance of emergency services) | |
| NAME OF WITNESSES AND THEIR STATUS: | |
| INITIAL ACTION/OUTCOMES: (Informal conciliation, police intervention, warning or banning letter issued) | |
| SUMMARY OF SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE SCHOOL, INCLUDING RISK ASSESSMENTS: | |
| ANY LINKED INCIDENTS:(If any) | |

**APPENDIX 2 – WARNING LETTER TO PARENT/CARER WITH CHILDREN AT SCHOOL
SEND RECORDED DELIVERY.**

Dear

RE: INCIDENT – DATE & TIME

I have received a report about your conduct at Ampney Crucis Primary School on **(enter date)** at **(enter time)**.

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

I must inform you that the Local Authority/Governing Body **(delete as appropriate)** will not tolerate conduct of this nature on its premises and will act to protect its staff and pupils.

Therefore, if, in the future, I receive any reports of conduct of this nature, I will be forced to consider removing your licence to enter the school grounds and buildings. If you do not comply with that instruction I will be able to arrange for you to be removed from the premises and prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted under this section, you are liable to a fine of up to £500.

Nevertheless, I wish to give you an opportunity to provide me in writing with any comments or observations of your own in relation to the report which I have received about your conduct. These comments may include any expressions of regret on your part and any assurances you are prepared to give about your future good conduct. To enable me to take a decision on this matter at an early point, you are asked to send me any written comments you wish to make by *(date, ten working days from the date of the letter)*

Yours sincerely

Head Teacher

APPENDIX 3 – BANNING LETTER TO PARENT/CARER FROM LA OR GOVERNING BODY

SEND RECORDED DELIVERY.

Dear

RE: INCIDENT – DATE & TIME

We the Governors of Ampney Crucis C/E Primary School have received a report from the Headteacher about your conduct on **(enter date and time)**.

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

I must inform you that the local authority/governing body **(delete as appropriate)** will not tolerate conduct of this nature on its premises and will act to protect its staff and pupils. On the advice of the Headteacher I am, therefore, instructing that until **(add date)** you are not to reappear on the premises of the school. If you do not comply with this instruction I may arrange for you to be removed from the premises and prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted under this section, you are liable to a fine of up to £500.

For the duration of this decision you may bring your son/**daughter (delete as appropriate and insert child/ren's names)** to be collected, and returned to you, at the school gate by a member of the school's staff.

The withdrawal of permission for you to enter the school premises takes effect immediately. However, I still need to decide whether it is appropriate to confirm this decision. Before I do so, 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 from the Headteacher. These comments may include any expressions of regret on your part and any assurances you are prepared to give about your future good conduct. To enable me to take a decision on this matter at an early point, you are asked to send me any written comments you wish to make by **(state date ten working days from the date of the letter)**.

If, on receipt of your comments, I consider that my decision should be confirmed, or extended, you will be supplied with details of how to pursue a review of the circumstances of your case. In any event, the decision to withdraw your licence to enter the school premises will be reviewed by **(complete as appropriate)**. That review will take account of any representations that you may have made and your subsequent conduct.

Yours sincerely

Chair of Governing Body

APPENDIX 4

**BANNING LETTER TO MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC FROM LA OR GOVERNING BODY
SEND RECORDED DELIVERY.**

Dear

I have received a report about your conduct at Ampney Crucis Primary School on **(enter date)** at **(enter time)**.

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

I must inform you that the Local Authority/Governing Body **(delete as appropriate)** will not tolerate conduct of this nature on its premises and will act to protect its staff and pupils.

On the advice of the Headteacher I am, therefore, instructing that you are not to reappear on the premises of the school. If you do not comply with this instruction I will be able to arrange for you to be removed from the premises and prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted under this section, you are liable to a fine of up to £500.

Yours sincerely

Chair of Governing Body

APPENDIX 5

LETTER UPDATING A BANNING LETTER, FROM THE LA/GOVERNING BODY, CONFIRMING BAN, TO PARENT/CARER WITH CHILD/REN AT THE SCHOOL. SEND RECORDED DELIVERY

Dear

On **(insert date)** I wrote to you informing you that on the advice of the Headteacher, I had withdrawn permission for you to come onto the premises of Ampney Crucis Primary School until **(insert date)**. To enable the local authority/governing body **(delete as appropriate)** to determine whether to confirm this decision, or to impose it for a longer period, I gave you the opportunity to give your written comments on the incident concerned by **(give date)**.

I have not received a written response from you / I have now received a letter from you dated **(insert date)**, the contents of which I have noted. **(delete as appropriate)**

In the circumstances, and after further consideration of the Headteacher's report, I have determined that the decision to withdraw permission for you to come onto school premises should be confirmed/extended **(delete as appropriate)**. I am, therefore, instructing that until **(insert date)** you are not to come onto the premises of the school without the prior knowledge and approval of the Headteacher. If you do not comply with this instruction, I may arrange for you to be removed from the premises and prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted, you are liable to a fine of up to £500.

Notwithstanding this decision, the Headteacher and staff at Ampney Crucis Primary School remain committed to the education of your child/children **(delete as appropriate)**, who must continue to attend school as normal: under the arrangements set out in my previous letter.

The local authority/governing body **(delete as appropriate)** will take steps to review the continuance of this decision by **(give date)**. When deciding whether it is necessary to extend the withdrawal of permission to come onto the school's premises, the authority/governing body **(delete as appropriate)** will take into account the extent of your compliance with the decision, any appropriate expressions of regret and assurances of future good conduct received from yourself and any evidence of your co-operation with the school in other respects.

(Include where the incident has arisen within the context of a parental complaint against the school)

Finally, I would advise you that I have asked the Headteacher to ensure that your complaint **(give brief details)** is considered under the appropriate school procedure. You will be contacted about this by the school in due course.

If you wish to pursue the matter further you have the right to a review of the circumstance of this case by the school's governing body.

Yours sincerely,
Chair of Governing body

**APPENDIX 6
LETTER UPDATING A BANNING LETTER, FROM THE LA OR GOVERNING BODY,
WITHDRAWING BAN – TO
A PARENT/CARER WITH CHILD/REND AT THE SCHOOL
SEND RECORDED DELIVERY**

Dear

On **(insert date)** I wrote to you informing you that, on the advice of the Headteacher, I had temporarily withdrawn permission for you to come onto the premises of Ampney Crucis Primary School. To enable me to determine whether to confirm this decision for a longer period, I gave you the opportunity to let me have your written comments on this incident by **(insert date)**.

I have not received a written response from you/I have now received a letter from you dated **(insert date)**, the contents of which I have noted. **(Delete either sentence as appropriate)**

In the circumstances, and after consulting with the Headteacher, I have decided that it is not necessary to confirm the decision and I am, therefore, restoring to you the permission to come onto the school premises, with immediate effect.

Nevertheless, I remain very concerned at the incident which occurred on **(insert date)**, and I must warn you that if there is any repetition of your behaviour on that occasion, I shall not hesitate to withdraw permission for you to come onto the premises.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of Governing Body

APPENDIX 7

**LETTER FROM THE LA OR GOVERNING BODY, FOLLOWING FORMAL REVIEW OF A
BANNING LETTER,
EXTENDING BAN – TO A PARENT/CARER WITH CHILD/REND AT THE SCHOOL
SEND RECORDED DELIVERY**

Dear

I wrote to you on **(insert date)** withdrawing permission for you to come onto the premises of Ampney Crucis Primary School until **(insert date)**. In that letter I also advised you that I would take steps to review this decision by **(insert date)**.

I have now completed the review. However, after consultation with the Headteacher, I have determined that it is not yet appropriate for me to withdraw my decision. **(Give a brief summary of reasons)**.

I, therefore, advise that the instruction that you are not to come onto the premises of Ampney Crucis Primary School without the prior knowledge and approval of the Headteacher remains in place until **(insert date)**.

I shall undertake a further review of this decision on **(insert date)**.

(Insert if the letter is from the Governing Body) If you are dissatisfied with this decision, you have a right to request a review of the decision by the Governing Body.

Yours sincerely,
Chair of Governing Body

APPENDIX 8

**LETTER FROM THE LA OR GOVERNING BODY, FOLLOWING FORMAL REVIEW OF A
BANNING LETTER,ENDING BAN – TO A PARENT/CARER WITH CHILD/REND AT THE SCHOOL
SEND RECORDED DELIVERY**

Dear

I wrote to you on **(insert date)** informing you that I have withdrawn my permission for you to come onto the premises of Ampney Crucis Primary School until **(insert date)**. In that letter I also advised you that I would take steps to review this decision by **(insert date)**.

I have now completed the review. After consultation with the Headteacher, I have decided that it is now appropriate to change that decision and I am, therefore, restoring to you the permission to come onto the school premises with immediate effect.

I trust that you can now be relied upon to act in full co-operation with the school and that there will be no further difficulties of the kind which made it necessary for me to prevent you entering the premises.

I should point out that if there is any repetition of your behaviour, I shall not hesitate to withdraw permission for you to come onto the premises once more.

Yours sincerely,
Chair of Governing Body

This policy/document was reviewed by:

Signed **Date**

Position

Signed **Date**

Position

The next revision date is: