

Parental Conduct Policy

Brooke House College

2022/23 Version

1 **Policy statement**

- 1.1 This policy applies to all parents of pupils at the College, and is provided to all parents as a guide to what is and what is not acceptable behaviour when dealing with Brooke House College.

2 **Introduction**

At Brooke House College, we are very fortunate to have a parent/guardian/agent body which is supportive and friendly. We recognise that the success of the College is dependent on a strong partnership between all members of the College community: pupils, parents, staff and directors. This partnership must be based on a polite, positive and respectful relationship. For this reason, we continue to welcome and encourage parents/guardians/agents to participate fully in the life of our College. Any reference in this policy to a “parent”, includes any parent, guardian, agent or other individual with “parental responsibility” (as defined in the Children Act 1989) for a pupil of the College.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder about the expected conduct from our parents and visitors. We ask that all members of the College community follow these principles:

- We all respect the caring ethos of our College;
- Both parents and staff need to work together for the benefit of the pupils;
- All members of the College community should be treated with respect and, therefore, we must all set a good example in our own speech and behaviour.
- Pupils and Staff should be allowed to go about their work without undue impediment.

In this context, threatening, violent or abusive behaviour, against any members of our College community, is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All members of our community have a right to expect the College to be a safe place in which to work and learn. Where the behaviour of parents or visitors falls below expected standards, the College will take appropriate action.

3 **Parental conduct**

Parents are asked to communicate with each other and with other children, as well as all members of staff in a respectful and courteous manner; a manner in which they themselves would wish to be addressed.

4 **Parental access**

Parents are requested to inform the College when they are due to pay a visit. Parents should report to reception to sign-in and to be given a visitor’s pass. Parents should not just enter their child’s boarding house without the Director of Boarding & Pastoral Care or the Resident Tutor being informed beforehand.

5 **Behavioural Incidents**

In order to support a peaceful and safe College environment, the College cannot accept parents or visitors exhibiting the following:

- Conduct which undermines the safe and calm environment in the College, either in the reception area, classroom, around the College site, immediately outside the College or

anywhere the College is being represented (sports fixtures and educational settings/King's Hall/PK building/College journey/day trips etc.);

- Using loud or offensive language, such as swearing;
- Displaying an unacceptable amount of anger and aggression;
- Threatening physical violence to a member of the College community;
- Damaging College or personal property;
- Abusive telephone calls, emails, letters or other forms of written communication;
- Defamatory comments about College staff, directors or other parents on social media sites;
- Sexual abuse;
- Racial abuse;
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment of one's own child;
- Approaching someone else's child in order to chastise them;
- Entering the College premises without authorisation;
- Interrupting online lessons.
- Use of undue pressure to coerce staff, pupils or other parents to behave in ways which undermines the academic and spiritual integrity of the College;
- Undue harassment of members of staff, other parents or pupils.

Any example of such behaviour, and the list above is not exhaustive, shall, for the purposes of this policy, constitute a "Behavioural Incident". If any such incidents are reported by a parent to the College, but haven't been witnessed by a member of staff, evidence will be required to substantiate these claims.

6 INAPPROPRIATE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools/Colleges, principals/headteachers, school/College staff, directors and in some cases other parents/pupils.

The Senior Leadership Team & Directors of the College consider the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole College community.

Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the principal, vice principal, or the managing director so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent 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 College will also expect that any parent or pupil removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the College 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 another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of College bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

7 PROCEDURES

The College has processes in place for dealing with Behavioural Incidents. Any Behavioural Incident will be reported to the principal, and any appropriate investigatory procedures will be followed. The outcome of any investigation may include exoneration, verbal warnings, written warnings and/or exclusion from the College premises. Bad parental behaviour that persists, even after appropriate procedures have been followed, may, in the most extreme cases lead to the College withdrawing the right of the pupil to remain a pupil at the College.

At any stage, the College may report serious incidents of abusive and threatening behaviour to the Police. The College has a responsibility to ensure that any act of actual or threatened violence is referred to the Police immediately.

Authorised by	resolution of the Board of Directors
Signed	
On behalf of the Board of Directors	
Date	August 2021

Schedule of Updates

Date document updated	Document updated by	Summary update/comments	Location of saved file
Feb 2021	MCO	Policy created due to poor parental behaviour during online lessons	Dropbox – SMT – Policies 2021-2022
October 2022	IMS	Amendments to roles	MS Teams

Schedule of Review

Date of document review	Reviewed by	Scheduled date of next review
Feb 2021	MCO	July 2022
October 2022	IMS	December 2025

Appendix 1

Touchline behaviour

Code of Conduct for Sport; Parents, Guardians, Agents and Guests whilst watching sports fixtures involving your children or the College.

- Encourage players to learn the rules/laws and play within them;
- Discourage unfair play and any form of open criticism or dissent towards match officials;
- Always set a positive example by recognising fair play and commending good performance by all players;
- Avoid belittling a player for losing or making mistakes;
- Accept publicly the judgements of officials;
- Support the players' involvement and help them to enjoy the game;
- Use correct and decent language at all times;
- Maintain communication with coaches about schedules and fixtures;
- Support all selection decisions made by the College coaches;
- Parents, supporters and visitors should not enter the playing area unless they are invited to do so by the match officials or the staff member in charge of the activity.

'Be Loud and be Proud'.

Appendix 2

Behaviour during online lessons

There are a number of online options that the College has been using to deliver lessons/work/assessments during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These range from merely setting homework by e-mail or providing access to online resources through to video tutorials and interactive video conferencing. Staff capability and the age of our pupils has determined our approach. During the delivery of online lessons,

Parents must adhere to the following:

- Our school policies on the appropriate use of ICT all apply;
- No screenshots or other recordings of what can be seen on screen during a lesson, which involves pupils or their home setting, can be made or distributed;
- Lessons must not be interrupted by parents when being delivered by teachers. If you witness anything untoward, you must contact the vice principal to raise your concerns.

Pupils must adhere to the following

- All school rules must be followed regarding the use of electronic devices and use of ICT;
- No screenshots or other recordings of what can be seen on screen during a lesson, which involves teachers, other pupils or their home setting, can be made or distributed;
- Please be sensible, if watching your lesson in your bedroom, about what you wear and what might be on the walls in terms of appropriate posters/pictures;
- Ideally, watch the lessons perhaps in the family dining room with a plain or blank wall as a background. If you then wish to work in your bedroom after that, on the tasks that have been set, that is between you and your parents.

The College would also appreciate it if parents could ensure the pupils studying at home adhere to their instructions.