



LEIGH
Academies Trust

Parent Code of Conduct



Leigh Academy
Bearsted

Date written: September 2025

Date of next review: September 2027

Revision Log (last 6 changes)

Date	Version number	Brief detail of change
July 2026	1.1	1. Expansion of the term 'parent' or 'carer' in Section 1: Purpose and scope. 2. Academies Director named as John Vennart and Deputy CEO named as Emma Elwin.

1. Purpose and scope

In our academy, we believe it's important to:

- Work in partnership with parents to support their child's learning
- Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and parents
- Model appropriate behaviour for our pupils at all times

To help us do this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community. This includes staff (through the staff code of conduct) and pupils (through our behaviour policy).

This code of conduct aims to help the academy work together with parents and carers by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

We use the term 'parents' and 'carers' to refer to:

- Anyone with parental responsibility for a pupil (See Appendix A for information and the Trust's response to Parental Responsibility and Family Court matters).
- Any individual providing care for a child, whether in a personal capacity (such as a grandparent or extended family member) or a professional capacity (such as a childminder).

2. Our expectations of parents and carers

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our academy
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils
- Treat all members of the academy community with respect – setting a good example with speech and behaviour
- Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct
- Approach the right member of academy staff to help resolve any issues of concern

3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, academy operations (including events on the academy grounds, in the community such as academy trips or sports team matches)
- Swearing, or using offensive language
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- Threatening another member of the academy community

- Sending abusive messages to another member of the academy community, including via text, email or social media
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the academy, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms
- Use of physical punishment against your child while on academy premises
- Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards any child or adult
- Disciplining another person's child – please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention
- Smoking or drinking alcohol on the academy premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- Bringing dogs onto the academy premises (other than guide dogs)
- Spitting

4. Incidents in the Community:

We expect that all parents and carers promote positive relationships within the community and that children have the ability to access good examples of conflict resolution with others from the adults who care for them. In the event of aggressive or threatening behaviour from adults outside of the academy premises, we stress the importance of contacting community agencies with a specialism to support and maintain safety for all involved. This includes local police, community police or local council for advice and assistance.

5. Breaching the code of conduct

If the academy suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the academy will gather information from those involved and speak to the parent about the incident.

Depending on the nature of the incident, the academy may then:

- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent in to academy to meet with a senior member of staff or the Principal
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour or Child Protection concerns)
- Seek advice from a legal team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the parent from the academy site

The academy will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the Principal.

The Principal will consult the Academies Director, John Vennart, or Deputy CEO, Emma Elwin, before banning a parent from the academy site.

Appendix 1:

Our practice has been developed in accordance with the DFE guidance, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility> -August 2023and <https://www.gov.uk/parental-rights-responsibilities>.

As an academy we treat all parents equally, unless there is a court order limiting an individual's exercise of parental responsibility. Individuals who have parental responsibility whether they are the resident parent or not have the right to:

information, e.g. pupil reports/attendance

to participate in activities, e.g. vote in elections for parent governors

to be asked to give consent, e.g. to the child taking part in academy trips

to be informed about meetings involving the child, e.g. Parent Consultations

Where a parent's actions, or proposed actions, conflict with our ability to act in the child's best interests, we will try to resolve the problem with that parent but avoid becoming involved in conflict or offer biased support in favour of either parent. However, there may be occasions when the academy needs to decline requests for action from one or more parents.

In cases where we cannot resolve the conflict between separated parents, we will advise the parent to pursue the matter through the Family Court. We urge parents to engage in appropriate systems to resolve their conflicts and avoid making impulsive decisions that may affect the child's wellbeing. While we will honour the terms of a court order, issues around residency and contact arrangements remain a civil matter to be agreed between the parents and will not be facilitated by members of our staff.

Court orders under section 8 of the Children Act 1989 (often called section 8 orders) settle areas of dispute in relation to the exercise of parental responsibility or a child's care or upbringing, and can limit how an individual exercises their parental responsibility. It must be noted that a Court order limiting a parent's exercise of their parental responsibility does not necessarily prevent or restrict us from continuing to carry out our duties under education law including Safeguarding.