TAME RIVER EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Great schools in which to learn, teach and belong.

Parent Code of Conduct

This is a Tame River Educational Trust policy. As an employer the Trust will ensure that at every level, in all our work and throughout all aspects of the Trust communities, all will be treated equally, with respect and dignity, free from discrimination and harassment. Each person will be given fair and equal opportunities to develop their full potential regardless of their age, disability, gender, gender-identity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, socio-economic background and special educational needs. Our Trust will tackle the barriers which could lead to unequal outcomes for these protected groups, ensuring there is equality of access and that we celebrate and value the diversity within our Trust communities. The Trust will work actively to promote equality and foster positive attitudes and commitment to an education for equality.

Review Cycle: Two Years
Next Review Date: September 2027
Person Responsible: Chief Executive Officer
Approving Body: Trust Board

1. Purpose and scope

The Tame River Educational Trust and our schools believe it is important to:

- Work in partnership with parents to support their child's learning.
- Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for students, staff and parents.
- Model appropriate behaviour to our students 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 students (through our behaviour policy).

This Parent Code of Conduct aims to help the school work together with parents and carers by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

- Anyone with parental responsibility for a student.
- Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or child-minders)

2. Our expectations of Parents and Carers

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our schools.
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our students.
- Treat all members of the school communities 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(s) of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern.

3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches).
- Swearing, or using offensive language.
- Displaying a temper, aggressive behaviour or shouting at members of staff, students or other parents.
- Threatening another member of the school community.
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media.
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms.
- Use of physical punishment against a child while on school premises.
- Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult.
- Disciplining another person's child – please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention.
- Smoking, vaping or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event).
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs).
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs).

4. Breaching the code of conduct

If the school / trust suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school / trust will gather information from those involved and speak to the parent about the incident.
The Education Act 1996 - Section 547, gives schools' powers to withdraw a parents right of access to the school if the parent has been threatening or abusive towards a student or a member of staff; indeed it is enough for a student or a member of staff to simply feel threatened.

Depending on the nature of the incident, the school / trust may then:

- Send a warning letter to the parent.
- Invite the parent into school to meet with a senior member of staff or the Headteacher.
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour).
- Seek legal advice regarding further action (for example, in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous).
- Ban the parent from the school site (this could be an immediate ban, depending on the severity of the incident).

If the school decides to impose a ban, the school will ensure it acts reasonably. The school will notify the parent of its decision to implement the ban and will give the parent an opportunity to make written representations. This should be sent to the school office for the attention of the Headteacher. If the ban is imposed with immediate effect due to the severity of the circumstances, the parent will still be given an opportunity to a written representation.

The ban will be kept under review (and will always be reviewed every 12 months as a minimum), and applied for no longer than is reasonable, taking into account the facts and circumstances surrounding the matter. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the Headteacher. The Headteacher will consult the Chair of Governors before banning a parent from the school site.