



Jowitt Avenue, Kempston, Bedford,
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Governing Body
Spring Term Newsletter 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find below a reminder of some of our school policies

Attendance

When OFSTED visited in April 2017 they identified a clear link between persistent absentees (those with less than 92% attendance) and lower than average academic progress.

We expect 100% attendance however we do appreciate that childhood illnesses occasionally mean it is not appropriate for your child to be in school

Good attendance is essential for children to make progress in their learning. There are a number of initiatives that have been developed to support families to improve pupil attendance and punctuality. In addition pupils with an attendance below 92% are tracked weekly. If your child's attendance falls below 90% you will be asked to attend a meeting in school to discuss it, and if necessary, meet with the Bedford Borough Education Welfare Officer.

The Governing Body are committed to improving attendance, we monitor attendance closely and have recently reviewed the school attendance policy.

You will have received a school letter detailing the new policy for holidays in term time. Holidays in term time will be unauthorised and parents who remove their children from school should expect to receive a penalty notice issued by the Local Authority.

Please ensure your child is in school, unless they are unwell.

The school opens at 8.45am. Children should be in the classroom ready to learn at 8.50am.

Please ensure your child arrives at school on time. Children who are not punctual take time to settle and often cause disruption to the class on arrival.

We recommend that good routines for attendance and punctuality are established so that they are easier to maintain as your child progresses through school.

School Travel Plan / Parking

The school travel plan was reviewed in 2016 as part of the transition to Primary. The aim of the travel plan is to promote the health benefits of sustainable and safe travel. Parents and children were consulted on their journeys to and from school.

To support the Travel plan the following have been undertaken:

- The staff carpark has been redesigned to accommodate all staff cars - to provide relief for Jowitt Avenue.
- Extra covered cycle storage was provided to promote cycling to school.
- Road Safety Awareness sessions for all pupils.
- Bedford Borough Council's bikeability cycling awareness training.

Local Councillors, Senior Leaders, and Governors have been working alongside Bedford Borough to tackle some of the issues raised:

- During half term a road safety barrier has been installed.
- Double yellow lines are due to be painted with the aim of improving traffic flow at peak times.
- Traffic enforcement officials will attend more regularly.
- Plans are being considered regards upgrading the footpath to improve pedestrian access to the school.

However, safety on Jowitt Avenue is the responsibility of all road users and cannot be achieved without your full co-operation.

Sadly we have to report an increasing number of complaints regards inconsiderate parking and driving in and around the school. Not only are these incidents causing inconvenience but also safety concerns for local residents, parents and visitors.

We urge all parents and carers who currently drive children to school to reconsider their current travel arrangements. If you must come by car please allow extra time for your journey, consider parking further away from school, and be considerate to other road users, pedestrians and local residents.

As a minimum we ask that all road users pay due regard to the Highway Code and in particular the guidance on waiting and parking (rules 238-244). For more information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>.

It is also noted that an increasing number of children enter or exit vehicles on the roadside. The volume of traffic makes this very dangerous practice and we urge all parents to, wherever possible, ensure children enter or exit the vehicles kerbside.

Safety is our priority and we appreciate your full support. Thank you

Working in Partnership

Children's personal, social and emotional development is the foundation for all areas of their learning. Working in partnership with parents is key to pupil's development in this area. To facilitate this we have:

- An **open door policy** – Good communication is vital to ensure that the children are happy, healthy and learning to the best of their ability. So please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher if you have any concerns or would like some advice on how best to support your child.
- A **Family Support Worker** – Mrs Spalding provides pastoral care to pupils and is available to support families.
- Provided a variety of practical parenting workshops to support families e.g. Internet Safety Awareness training – please see school newsletters for information on future courses.
- **Curriculum information** - available on the school website. You will have received a password to access the class pages.
- Provided **opportunities to celebrate** – we welcome parent involvement and provide many opportunities throughout the year for you to join your children to celebrate their learning.
- A **Code of Conduct for parents and visitors** to the school (attached below).

Governor Vacancy

We are seeking to appoint a governor who has the following skills, knowledge and experience:

- The ability to work as part of a team
- A readiness to accept responsibility
- The ability to communicate effectively.
- The confidence to ask questions
- The ability to listen and to assimilate information
- An interest and an enthusiasm for continuous improvement
- To realise the importance of confidentiality.
- Have Good Literacy/ Numeracy and Basic IT skills
- An ability and willingness to learn and develop new skills

In addition, there are skills that you may be able to bring with you from experiences at home and work, which will enhance the effectiveness of the Governing Body. You do not have to be an expert in education to be a Governor but it would be very desirable for the candidate to have current or recent experience in one or more of the following:

- Community involvement or a volunteer role.
- Financial Management/Planning.

As a governor you will be required to show:

- Commitment to improving the education for ALL our pupils
- Commitment to the schools vision and ethos

You will be willing and able to give about 20 hours per term to attend meetings and training.

At Camestone we follow all Safer Recruitment guidelines for all staff and volunteers. A full DBS and 2 references will be required for School Governors.

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in knowing more about becoming a school governor we would be happy to have an informal discussion with you. Please ask at the school office.

Camestone School



Code of Conduct: Parents/Carers and other visitors to school

Rationale

At Camestone School we are very fortunate to have very supportive and friendly parents, without which we would not be able to function so successfully as a Community School. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community. As a partnership our parents will understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

The purpose of the policy is to provide a reminder to all parents and visitors to our school about expected conduct. This is so that we can continue to flourish and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Guidance

As well as following the guidance set out in the Home-School Agreement, we expect parents and carers to:

- demonstrate that both teachers and parents work together for the benefit of their children;
- demonstrate that all members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour;
- seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to the situation;
- correct own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict or aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour;
- approach the school to help you resolve any issues of concern.

Use of the Internet

We expect parents and carers to adhere to the following statement:

- As a parent, I support school safeguarding policies and I will ensure that I monitor my child's use of the internet (including social networking) outside of school. I will act as a positive role model to my child by ensuring that I use social networking sites responsibly.

Behaviour

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment, the school strongly discourages parents and carers from:

- disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, an employee's office, office area or any other area of the school grounds;
- using loud and/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language, displaying temper or spitting.
- threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, fellow parents/carers or pupils regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes or may constitute a criminal offence;
- damaging or destroying school property;
- abusive or threatening emails, phone messages or posts on social media;
- the use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises;
- expressing dissatisfaction in a public place (e.g. social media) without first discussing the issue with the school leadership team;
- approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards their own child, (such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences.);
- smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs on school premises;
- behaviour that would bring the school into disrepute;
- bringing pets onto school premises (assistance dogs permitted);
- cycling or using scooters on school premises.

Should any of the above behaviour occur on school premises, the school may feel it necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and even prohibit the offending adult from entering the school grounds.

We trust that parents and carers will assist our school with the implementation of this policy and thank you for your continuing support.

February 2018