

LOSTOCK COLLEGE

Managing Aggressive Behaviour from Parents/Visitors Policy

This policy was adopted by the Governing Body at its meeting on _____14.03.18_____ after due consultation with the staff of Lostock College.

It is due for review by : March 2021

Signed: _____Ann Day_____Chair of Governing Body

Managing Aggressive Behaviour from Parents/Visitors to Lostock College

Statement of Intent

Lostock College encourages close links with parents and the community. We believe that students benefit when the relationship between home and school is a positive one.

The vast majority of parents, carers and others visiting Lostock College 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 school staff.

Our school expects and requires its staff to behave professionally in these difficult situations and attempt to defuse the situation where possible, seeking the involvement as appropriate of other colleagues.

When a parent or member of the public behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of the school staff, the Headteacher or appropriate senior staff will seek to resolve the situation through discussion and mediation. These behaviours may culminate in a ban either temporary or permanent.

Where all procedures have been exhausted, and aggression or intimidation continues, or where there is an extreme act of violence, the Police will be called and a parent, carer or member of the public will be banned by the Headteacher from the school premises.

The following is advice from Trafford Legal Department, which the College will follow:

Excluding Parents/Carers from school premises:

Schools are not public places to which any member of the public can have access. Therefore a person who enters without permission is a trespasser and can be asked to leave. Trespass is not a criminal offence but a civil matter. To prevent someone repeatedly trespassing you can apply for an injunction.

Who has an implied licence to come on the school premises?

Various people will have an "implied licence" to go on to school premises including: children, parents, contractors and postmen. Quite often it is the behaviour of parents that causes problems for schools. The law states that parents have a licence to be on school premises for the purposes of their child's education. The licence can be withdrawn if they behave in a manner that is harmful to the other individuals using the premises, such children staff or visitors.

To justify interfering with this licence, the school must be able to demonstrate that every effort has been made to ensure that the parent has:

- Been made aware of the standard of behaviour expected of them whilst on the school's premises and
- Acted in a way that is both serious and in breach of those reasonable standards

Therefore, unless a parent has either physically threatened or assaulted a member of the school's population, schools are generally expected to issue them with:

- Verbal warnings, if it is safe and appropriate to do so.

- Warning letters from the headteacher or the school's chair of governors, if a ban is not yet warranted and
- A banning letter from the headteacher, where there has been a single sufficiently serious incident or the previous warnings have not be heeded

Headteachers should be mindful when "banning" a parent, the decision to ban can be challenged in the High Court, by the parent. Therefore, parents must be given the opportunity to make representations before the ban is imposed. However, if the ban needs to be imposed urgently, the school can do this, imposing the ban temporarily, pending the opportunity to make representations by the parent.