FAIRLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Pound Avenue Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 3JA

Headteacher: Mr Robert Staples BA (Hons)
Fax: (01438) 750116 E-mail: admin@fairlands.herts.sch.uk

Tel: (01438) 351053 www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

POLICY STATEMENT

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

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FAIRLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The vast majority of parents, carers and other visitors to our school behave in a reasonable way, ensuring that the school is a safe, orderly environment in which students can learn.

Occasionally, however, a negative attitude is expressed in an aggressive, verbally abusive or physically abusive way towards members of the school community which is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

The school requires its teachers and other members of staff to behave professionally in these difficult situations, attempting to defuse the situation wherever possible, and to seek the involvement of other members of staff as appropriate. However, all teachers and members of staff have the right to work without fear of harassment, violence, intimidation or abuse.

The school expects parents and other visitors to always behave in a reasonable way towards all members of the school community. This policy outlines the steps that will be taken where the behaviour displayed falls below the standard the school expects and will not be tolerated.

The types of behaviour which are unacceptable and will not be tolerated are:

- shouting, either in person or over the telephone;
- using intimidating language or behaviour;
- using threatening language or behaviour;
- using abusive language or behaviour;
- using insulting language or behaviour;
- using aggressive or offensive hand gestures;
- shaking or holding a fist towards another;
- swearing;
- pushing, shoving or jostling;
- hitting, slapping, punching or kicking;
- spitting;
- any other behaviour likely to cause anybody witnessing it (including the recipient) alarm, distress or to fear that violence may be used against them or others

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour.

PERMISSION TO ENTER AND BE ON THE SCHOOL'S PREMISES

Parents have implied permission to enter and be on the school's premises for reasons relating to their child's education. This means that parents are welcome to come to the school to drop off and collect their child, subject to any restrictions that may apply to vehicle access to the site, to speak to teachers and other members of staff about their child, or for meetings, parents' evenings and social events. Parents do not have a legal right to enter or be on the school's premises without a good reason.

In education law, the term "parent" includes the natural or adoptive parents of a student, as well as a non-parent with care of a student and a non-parent with parental responsibility of a student. For the purposes of this policy only, the term "parent" will also include a non-parent who does not have care of or parental responsibility for a student, but who is involved in looking after a student on a regular basis (for example, a childminder, non-resident partner of a parent or relative who takes the student to

or from school, is involved with the care of the student in some other way, or a person who has been identified as an emergency contact).

Other visitors also have implied permission to enter and be on the school's premises if they have a reason, for example a courier or delivery person, or a member of the public attending the school's office to make enquiries about something.

Members of the public who access the school site or buildings without a good reason are trespassing.

WITHDRAWAL OF PERMISSION TO ENTER AND BE ON THE SCHOOL'S PREMISES

The school has the right to withdraw the implied permission for a parent or visitor to enter or be on the school's premises if their behaviour while they were previously on the school's premises was unacceptable. The withdrawal of the implied permission will be effective as soon as the parent or other visitor has been told that they must leave and are prohibited from returning, and will be confirmed in writing by recorded delivery if the home address is known. The full procedure that the school will follow is outlined in further detail below.

Once the implied permission has been withdrawn, the school will ask the police to remove the parent or visitor if they appear on the school's premises. If the parent or visitor causes a nuisance or disturbance while they are on the school's premises, they may also be prosecuted in the criminal courts under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996, be liable to pay a fine of up to £500.00 and have a criminal conviction recorded against them.

Where a parent has had their implied permission to enter and be on the school's premises withdrawn, the school will, in appropriate cases, make alternative arrangements for the parent's children to be dropped off and collected from the school, and in relation to parents' evenings and other meetings.

OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES

In addition to the criminal offence under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 outlined above, unacceptable behaviour by a parent or visitor can also amount to several other forms of criminal offence.

Some of these criminal offences are listed below:

Common Assault

This is committed when a member of the school community has been assaulted and no injury or very minor injuries have been caused. The offence is more serious if it is racially aggravated by the words or behaviour used just before or during the assault

Assault occasioning Actual Bodily Harm

This is committed when a member of the school community has been assaulted and slightly more serious injuries have been caused falling short of fractures or deep wounds. The offence is more serious if it is racially aggravated by the words or behaviour used just before or during the assault

Grievous Bodily Harm

This is committed when a member of the school community has been assaulted and serious injuries have been caused such as fractures or deep wounds. The offence is more serious if it is racially aggravated by the words or behaviour used just before or during the assault, and there are two forms of the offence; intention to cause the injury (the more serious of the two) and being reckless as to causing the injury

Public Order Offences

This group of offences are committed when a parent or visitor has used threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress; or likely to cause fear of violence; or with intent to cause fear of violence; or using or threatening unlawful violence likely to make those witnessing the incident fear for their safety

Criminal Damage

This is committed when a parent or visitor has destroyed or damaged property belonging to the school or a member of the school community, intending to do so or being reckless as to doing so. The offence is more serious where the damage was caused by fire, or there was an intention or recklessness as to endangering life

Possession of an Offensive Weapon or Bladed Article on School Premises

This is committed when a parent or visitor enters the school's premises with a knife or an offensive weapon. It does not matter if the parent or visitor intended to use the knife or weapon

Where the school believes that a parent or visitor's conduct would amount to a criminal offence, the school will report the incident to the police for immediate investigation and prosecution. The school will co-operate fully with the police, including encouraging teachers and other members of staff to provide witness statements and to attend court to give evidence at a trial.

Where a parent or visitor's conduct amounts to a criminal offence, the school will, in all but exceptional cases, immediately withdraw their implied permission to enter and be on the school's premises.

THE PROCEDURE FOR WITHDRAWING IMPLIED PERMISSION TO BE ON THE SCHOOL'S PREMISES

The initial decision to withdraw implied permission will be made by the headteacher or, in the headteacher's absence from school, the deputy headteacher. The decision will be reviewed on a regular basis by the chair of the local governing body, who can delegate this task to another governor in appropriate cases.

STAGE 1 - WARNING LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER BEFORE IMPLIED PERMISSION WITHDRAWN

Where a parent or visitor has behaved in a way which is unacceptable to the school for the first time, they are likely to receive a letter warning them that, if the behaviour is repeated, their implied permission to enter and be on the school's premises will be withdrawn. The headteacher will send a letter to the parent or visitor confirming the warning and the consequences of failing to heed it. However, where the unacceptable behaviour is serious and/or amounts to a criminal offence, it is likely that the parent or visitor's implied permission will be withdrawn immediately without warning under Stage 2.

STAGE 2 - LETTER FROM HEADTEACHER WITHDRAWING IMPLIED PERMISSION

Where a parent or visitor has already received a warning letter under Stage 1 and has behaved in an unacceptable way again, or where a parent or visitor has engaged in serious misconduct and/or conduct amounting to a criminal offence, their implied permission to enter and be on the school's premises will be withdrawn. If possible, they will be verbally informed that they are prohibited from entering or being on the school's premises immediately after the incident or as soon as practicable thereafter. In any event, the headteacher will send a letter to the parent or visitor confirming the withdrawal of their "implied permission" and the consequences of failing to comply.

The prohibition will initially last for ten school days from the date of the letter. The parent or visitor will be invited to provide written comments within five school days of the date of the letter. By the tenth school day from the date of the letter, the chair of the local governing body will review the headteacher's decision in accordance with Stage 3 (whether or not any written comments have been received) having been provided with all documentation relating to the incident (and any previous incidents), the headteacher's record of the decision and the reasons for it.

STAGE 3 – REVIEW OF HEADTEACHER'S DECISION BY CHAIR OF THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY

The chair of the local governing body will, within ten school days of the date of the letter notifying the parent or visitor of the headteacher's decision to withdraw their implied permission to enter and be on the school's premises, review the decision made, having considered all documentation relating to the incident (and any previous incidents), the headteacher's record of the decision, the reasons for it, confirmation as to whether the parent or visitor has complied with the instruction, and any written comments received from the parent or visitor.

The chair of the local governing body must consider whether the headteacher's decision, made immediately after the incident, was unjustified; whether, although the headteacher's decision was justified at the time, the withdrawal of implied permission for a period of ten school days is sufficient to serve as a warning and to allow the parent or visitor time to reflect upon their past and future behaviour; or whether the headteacher's decision was entirely justified and should be confirmed for a further review at a later date.

The chair of the local governing body will, by the tenth school day of the date of the letter, write to the parent or visitor confirming whether the decision of the headteacher has been confirmed or revoked, stating their reasons.

Where the decision has been confirmed, the letter will confirm the date of the next review, which will be for a period of between fifteen and thirty school days, or until the last day of the term or half term period, at the chair of governor's discretion, subject to a maximum period of thirty school days.

Where the decision has been confirmed, the parent or visitor will be invited to provide further written comments at least five school days before the date of the next review. These comments should be restricted to the parent or visitor's conduct since the decision was last confirmed or any new consequences of the decision, and should not repeat comments provided previously made to the chair of the local governing body

STAGE 4 - FURTHER REVIEWS OF THE DECISION

Where the headteacher's decision was confirmed by the chair of the local governing body under Stage 3, or the decision has previously been confirmed under Stage 3, the chair of the local governing body will carry out a further review of the decision by the review date, having considered all documentation relating to the incident (and any previous incidents), the headteacher's record of the original decision, the reasons for it, confirmation as to whether the parent or visitor has complied with the instruction since the last review, any written comments provided by the parent or visitor previously, the record of the chair of the local governing body's previous review, and any further written comments received from the parent or visitor following the last review.

The chair of the local governing body must consider whether, in view of the length of time that the parent or visitor has been prohibited from entering or being on the school's premises, and in light of the parent or visitor's conduct since their implied permission was withdrawn, and in consideration of any genuine assurances given in their written comments as their future conduct, it is now appropriate to revoke the decision to withdraw their implied permission to enter and be on the school's premises.

The chair of the local governing body will, by the review date, write to the parent or visitor confirming whether the decision has been further confirmed or revoked, stating their reasons.

Where the decision has been further confirmed, the letter will confirm the date of the next review, which will be for a period of between fifteen and thirty school days, or until the last day of the term or half term period, at the chair of governor's discretion, subject to a maximum period of thirty school days.

Where the decision has been further confirmed, the parent or visitor will be invited to provide further written comments at least five school days before the date of the next review. These comments should be restricted to the parent or visitor's conduct since the decision was last confirmed or any new consequences of the decision, and should not repeat comments provided previously which the chair of the local governing body will already be in possession of. The procedure under Stage 4 will be followed in relation to all further reviews.

PROHIBITING THIRD PARTIES FROM ENTERING AND BEING ON THE SCHOOL'S PREMISES

The procedure outlined above relates to parents and visitors who had a valid reason for entering and being on the school's premises. Sometimes, members of the public enter the school's premises when they have no good reason for doing so (for example, they do not have children registered as students at the school, and they are not delivering items or making valid enquiries at the school's office).

Such people do not have implied permission to enter and be on the school's premises, and are therefore trespassing. This means that, if they are causing a nuisance or disturbance on the school's premises, they can be prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. In those circumstances, the school will inform the third party that they are trespassing and ask them to leave the school's premises and, in appropriate cases, call the police and support any prosecution for criminal offences which follows.

Although third parties do not have implied permission to enter and be on the school's premises, for the avoidance of doubt, where the address of the third party is known, the headteacher will write to the third party warning them of the consequences of reappearing on the school's premises.

PUBLICATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be published on the school' website and reviewed annually by the local governing body.

APPENDICES

LETTER 1 - TEMPLATE LETTER TO PARENT - WARNING BEFORE IMPOSING BAN

[On School Headed Notepaper]

BY RECORDED DELIVERY

[INSERT NAME] [INSERT ADDRESS] [INSERT POSTCODE] [INSERT DATE]

Dear [...]

I have received a report about your unacceptable conduct on [INSERT DATE] at approximately [INSERT TIME] when I have been informed that you [INSERT SUMMARY OF INCIDENT, INCLUDING EFFECT UPON STAFF, PUPILS OR OTHER PARENTS].

I must inform you that [INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL] will not tolerate conduct of this nature on its premises and will act to defend its teachers, members of staff, students and their parents, and other members of the school community.

I am therefore putting you on notice that, if I receive a further report of unacceptable conduct from you, I will have no option but to instigate the school's formal procedure to withdraw your permission to enter or be on the premises of Fairlands Primary School.

A copy of the school's policy for Unacceptable Behaviour is attached for your consideration.

I should warn you that, if your permission to enter or be on school premises is withdrawn, you can be removed from the premises by a police officer and you may be prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted under that section, you will be liable to a fine of up to £500.00 and have a criminal conviction recorded against you.

If you have any concerns about the school which have led to your unacceptable conduct, you should raise these with the school in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy, a copy of which is attached for your consideration.

I trust that we will now be able to put this matter firmly behind us.

Yours [faithfully][sincerely]

[INSERT NAME] Headteacher enc

LETTER 2 - TEMPLATE LETTER TO PARENT - IMPOSING INTERIM BAN ON ENTERING SCHOOL PREMISES

[On School Headed Notepaper]

BY RECORDED DELIVERY

[INSERT NAME] [INSERT ADDRESS] [INSERT POSTCODE] [INSERT DATE]

Dear [...]

Further to my letter dated [INSERT DATE], I have received a [further] report about your unacceptable conduct on [INSERT DATE] at approximately [INSERT TIME] when it is alleged that you [INSERT SUMMARY OF INCIDENT, INCLUDING EFFECT UPON STAFF, PUPILS OR OTHER PARENTS].

I must inform you that Fairlands Primary School will not tolerate conduct of this nature on its premises and will act to defend its teachers, members of staff, students and their parents, and other members of the school community.

I am therefore instructing you that (for a temporary period) you are not to enter or be on the school's premises.

If you do not comply with this instruction, the police will be called and they have powers to remove you from the premises and prosecute under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted under this section, you are liable to a fine of up to £500.00 and a criminal conviction will be recorded against you.

The withdrawal of permission for you to enter or be on the school premises takes effect immediately. However, the chair of the local governing body will need to decide whether my decision should be confirmed. Before the review of my decision takes place, you have the opportunity to provide in writing any comments or observations of your own in relation to the report of your conduct. These comments may include any expressions of regret on your part and any assurances you are prepared to give about your future good conduct.

To enable the chair of the local governing body to review my decision at an early stage, you are asked to send any written comments you wish to make within five school days from the date of this letter, i.e. by [INSERT DATE].

The chair of the local governing body will review my decision within ten school days of the date of this letter, whether or not any written comments are received from you.

If, after considering your written comments, the chair of the local governing body takes the view that my decision should be confirmed, you will be provided with written details of when a further review of the decision will take place.

A copy of the school's policy for Unacceptable Behaviour is attached for your consideration.

Until the review has taken place, you may bring your child to school and collect them at the end of the school day, but you must not go beyond the school gate or cross the boundary of the school premises.

If you have any concerns about the school which have led to your unacceptable conduct, you should raise these with the school in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy, a copy of which is attached for your consideration.

Yours [faithfully]/[sincerely]

[INSERT NAME] HEADTEACHER

LETTER 3A - TEMPLATE LETTER TO PARENT - CONFIRMING INTERIM BAN ON ENTERING SCHOOL PREMISES

[On School's Headed Notepaper]

BY RECORDED DELIVERY

[INSERT NAME] [INSERT ADDRESS] [INSERT POSTCODE] [INSERT DATE]

Dear [...]

On [INSERT DATE], the headteacher wrote to you informing you that they had withdrawn permission for you to enter and be on the premises of Fairlands Primary School following a report of your unacceptable behaviour on [INSERT DATE]. [This followed an earlier incidence of unacceptable behaviour on [INSERT DATE], following which the headteacher wrote to you warning you that the school's formal procedure for withdrawing your permission to enter or be on the school's premises would be instigated if your unacceptable behaviour was repeated.]

To enable me to determine whether to confirm the decision for a longer period, you were given the opportunity of providing your written comments in relation to the incident by [INSERT DATE].

[Insert Either: As at the date of this letter, I have not received any written comments from you, and I have therefore reviewed the headteacher's decision on consideration of the documentation I have been provided with by the school only.]

[Or: I received your written comments on [INSERT DATE], the contents of which I have carefully considered, together with documentation I have been provided with by the headteacher.]

I have determined that the decision to withdraw permission for you to come onto the school's premises should be confirmed.

I am therefore instructing that you are not to enter or be on the school's premises without the prior knowledge and permission of the headteacher which will only be given for a good reason (for example, a parents' evening or a pre-arranged meeting).

If you do not comply with this instruction, the school will arrange for a police officer to remove you from the premises, and you may be prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted, you are liable to a fine of up to £500.00 and a criminal conviction will be recorded against you. Notwithstanding this decision, the headteacher, other members of staff and the local governing body remain committed to the education of your child, who must continue to attend school as normal under the arrangements set out in the letter dated [INSERT DATE].

I will take steps to review the continuance of this decision again on [INSERT DATE]. In deciding whether it is necessary to extend the withdrawal of permission to enter or be on the school's premises,

I will take into account the extent of your compliance with my instruction, any appropriate and sincere expressions of regret and any assurances of future good conduct received from yourself, together with evidence of your cooperation with the school in other respects.

If you wish to provide additional written comments for me to consider when I carry out my further review, please send them to the school to arrive at least five working days before the date of my further review, i.e. by [INSERT DATE]. Any such additional comments should be restricted to your

conduct since the decision was last confirmed or any new consequences of the decision, and should not repeat comments provided previously of which I am already in possession.

Yours [faithfully][sincerely]

LETTER 3B - TEMPLATE LETTER TO PARENT - LIFTING INTERIM BAN ON ENTERING SCHOOL PREMISES

[On School's Headed Notepaper]

BY RECORDED DELIVERY

[INSERT NAME]
[INSERT ADDRESS]
[INSERT POSTCODE]
[INSERT DATE]

Dear [...]

On [INSERT DATE], the headteacher wrote to you informing you that they had withdrawn permission for you to enter and be on the premises of [INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL] following a report of your unacceptable conduct on [INSERT DATE]. [This followed an earlier incidence of unacceptable conduct on [INSERT DATE], following which the headteacher wrote to you warning you that the school's formal procedure for withdrawing your permission to enter or be on the school's premises would be instigated if your unacceptable behaviour was repeated.]

To enable me to determine whether to confirm this decision for a longer period, you were given the opportunity to provide your written comments in relation to this incident by [INSERT DATE].

[Insert Either: As at the date of this letter, I have not received any written comments from you, and I have therefore reviewed the headteacher's decision on consideration of the documentation I have been provided with by the headteacher only.]

[Or: I received your written comments on [INSERT DATE], the contents of which I have carefully considered, together with documentation I have been provided with by the headteacher.]

I have decided that it is not necessary to confirm this decision on this occasion, and I am therefore restoring to you permission to enter and be on the school's premises, with immediate effect.

I do, however, remain concerned in relation to your conduct on [INSERT DATE], and I must warn you that, if there is any repetition of your behaviour, the headteacher will not hesitate to withdraw permission for you to come on to the school's premises again.

I hope that we can now draw a line under this matter and look forward to an improved relationship between yourself and the school in the future.

Yours [faithfully][sincerely]

LETTER 4A - TEMPLATE LETTER TO PARENT - CONFIRMING BAN ON ENTERING SCHOOL PREMISES (FOLLOWING FURTHER REVIEW)

[On School's Headed Notepaper]

BY RECORDED DELIVERY

[INSERT NAME] [INSERT ADDRESS] [INSERT DATE]

Dear [...]

I wrote to you on [INSERT DATE] confirming the decision to withdraw permission for you to enter and be on the premises of [Fairlands Primary School].

In that letter, I advised you that I would take steps to review the decision again on [INSERT DATE] and invited you to provide me with any additional written comments that you have by [INSERT DATE].

[Insert Either: As at the date of this letter, I have not received any additional written comments from you, and I have therefore reviewed the decision on consideration of the documentation already in my possession, together with further documentation received from the school confirming your compliance with my instruction, only.]

[Or: I received additional written comments from you on [INSERT DATE], the contents of which I have carefully considered, together with the documentation already in my possession and further documentation received from the school confirming your compliance with my instruction.]

I have determined that it is not yet appropriate for me to revoke the decision to withdraw your permission to enter and be on the school's premises. This is because [INSERT REASONS].

I therefore confirm my instruction that you are not to enter or be on the school's premises without the prior knowledge and permission of the Headteacher which will only be given for a good reason (for example, a parents' evening or a pre-arranged meeting).

If you do not comply with this instruction, the school will arrange for a police officer to remove you from the premises and you may be prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted under this section, you are liable to a fine of up to £500.00 and a criminal conviction will be recorded against you.

Notwithstanding this decision, the headteacher, other members of staff and the local governing body remain committed to the education of your child, who must continue to attend school as normal under the arrangements set out in the letter dated [INSERT DATE].

I will take steps to review the continuance of this decision again on [INSERT DATE]. In deciding whether it is necessary to extend the withdrawal of permission to come onto the school's premises, I will take into account the extent of your compliance with my instruction, any appropriate and sincere expressions of regret and any assurances of future good conduct received from yourself, together with evidence of your co-operation with the school in other respects.

If you wish to provide additional written comments for me to consider when I carry out my further review, please send them to the school to arrive at least five working days before the date of my further review, i.e. by [INSERT DATE]. Any such additional comments should be restricted to your

conduct since the decision was last confirmed or any new consequences of the decision, and should not repeat comments provided previously of which I am already in possession.

Yours [faithfully][sincerely]

LETTER 4B - TEMPLATE LETTER TO PARENT - LIFTING BAN ON ENTERING SCHOOL PREMISES (FOLLOWING REVIEW)

[On School's Headed Notepaper]

BY RECORDED DELIVERY

[INSERT NAME] [INSERT ADDRESS] [INSERT POSTCODE] [INSERT DATE]

Dear [...]

I wrote to you on [INSERT DATE] confirming the decision to withdraw permission for you to enter and be on the premises of Fairlands Primary School.

In that letter, I advised you that I would take steps to review the decision again on [INSERT DATE] and invited you to provide me with any additional written comments that you have by [INSERT DATE].

[Insert Either: As at the date of this letter, I have not received any additional written comments from you, and I have therefore reviewed the decision on consideration of the documentation already in my possession, together with further documentation received from the school confirming your compliance with my instruction, only.]

[Or: I received additional written comments from you on [INSERT DATE], the contents of which I have carefully considered, together with the documentation already in my possession and further documentation received from the school confirming your compliance with my instruction.]

I have determined that it is now appropriate to revoke the decision to withdraw your permission to enter and be on the school's premises. I am therefore restoring to you permission to come on to the school's premises with immediate effect.

I do, however, remain concerned in relation to your conduct on [INSERT DATE], and I must warn you that, if there is any repetition of your behaviour, the headteacher will not hesitate to withdraw permission for you to come on to the school's premises again.

I hope that we can now draw a line under this matter and look forward to an improved relationship between yourself and the school in the future.

Yours [faithfully][sincerely]

LETTER 5 - TEMPLATE LETTER TO MEMBER OF PUBLIC - IMPOSING BAN ON ENTERING SCHOOL PREMISES

[On School's Headed Notepaper]

BY RECORDED DELIVERY

[INSERT NAME] [INSERT ADDRESS] [INSERT POSTCODE] [INSERT DATE]

Dear [...]

I have received a report about your unacceptable conduct on [INSERT DATE] at approximately [INSERT TIME] when it is alleged that you entered the premises of [INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL] and [INSERT SUMMARY OF INCIDENT, INCLUDING EFFECT UPON STAFF, STUDENTS, PARENTS OR OTHER VISITORS].

You have no lawful authority to enter or be on the school's premises, and I must inform you that the school will not tolerate conduct of this nature on its premises and will act to defend its staff, students and their parents, and other members of the school community. I am therefore instructing you that you are not to enter or be on the school's premises in the future.

If you do not comply with this instruction, the police will be called and they have powers to remove you from the school's premises and prosecute you under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If convicted under this section, you are liable to a fine of up to £500.00 and a criminal conviction will be recorded against you.

Yours [faithfully][sincerely]

[INSERT NAME] HEADTEACHER