



Duke of Norfolk CE Primary School

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From tiny acorns, great forests grow

Governor Bulletin: Important Notice to Parents

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, I hope that you all had a wonderful summer break.

On behalf of the wider Governing Body, I'd like to welcome returning children and parents/carers for another exciting year at Dukes as well as to warmly welcome our new starters and their families.

The role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body is made up of a mixture of volunteers - members of the community, church and local authority, parents and staff. We meet as a Full Governing Body (FGB) six times per year. We work closely with Mrs Bland and Miss Wilson to raise standards and make sure the school provides a good quality education.

Our photos are on the [school website](#), so please feel free to stop and chat to us when you see us around the school. Please note that the Governors role is strategic, whilst the day-to-day management of the school is the responsibility of Mrs Bland and Miss Wilson.

Behaviour

We are incredibly proud of the warm, welcoming and supportive learning environment here at Dukes. We believe that this enables all children to thrive whilst not only in our care but also for the future.

The whole school community has a role to play in implementing the [school's behaviour policy](#). This includes all children, the headteacher, teachers and staff, the FGB and parents and carers.

As parents/carers, we instil a huge amount of responsibility towards the school in looking after and teaching our children. However, we must recognise that Dukes' teaching staff and school leadership are extremely professional in their roles and that we must have trust and confidence in their ability to deal with any behaviour that does not conform to the agreed behaviour policy, which includes the school Code of Conduct.

Our Behaviour Policy is on our website. Copies of our Code of Conduct (or 'School Rules') are located in classrooms and across the school site as a visual reminder of the schools expectations. As parents/carers, I would encourage you to:

- get to know the school's behaviour policy and reinforce it at home where appropriate;
- support your child in adhering to the school's behaviour policy;
- inform the school of any changes in circumstances that may affect your child's behaviour;
- discuss any behavioural concerns with the class teacher promptly;
- take part in any pastoral work following misbehaviour i.e. attending reviews of specific behaviour interventions;

- raise any concerns about the management of behaviour with the school directly, whilst continuing to work in partnership with the school;
- take part in the life of the school and its culture.

The school will endeavour to build a positive relationship with parents/carers by keeping them informed about developments in their child's behaviour and the school's policy and working in collaboration with them to tackle behavioural issues.

Online Behaviour

As a Governing Body we are increasingly concerned about the children's online safety and the dangers they may be exposed to if their online platforms and devices are not regularly supervised and/or monitored by parents/carers. We are also very concerned about the impact of being on sites that are not age-appropriate and/or being used for the wrong reasons, for example, WhatsApp. Not only is this having a negative impact on children's education and emotional and mental wellbeing, but it is also having a derogatory impact on children's friendships. This in turn is leading to many hours of school teachers' time in terms of sorting things out. Unfortunately, if parents/carers continue to not follow social media parental guidelines, they continue to leave our teachers in an almost impossible situation. Please work with us as a whole school to protect your children.

To support parents/carers with keeping children safe online, the school has set up an Online Safety Workshop (over Microsoft Teams) on 25th October 2023 (6pm-7pm). Please use the following link to register to attend <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/caf94e44-11e5-4b12-b29d-79648b63e517@429a8eb3-3210-4e1a-aaa2-6ccde0ddabc5>

Concerns or Complaints

If you have any concerns or complaints about the school, please raise them with Mrs Bland (either by phone, email or in writing) at the earliest opportunity. Please refrain from posting concerns or complaints on social media as this will not be responded to. The Governing Body and school leadership are committed to doing the best for the children in our care and are therefore keen to resolve any problems in their best interests. The school leadership will listen carefully to your concerns, recognise how you feel and will seek a solution with you, taking particular account of the way in which the issue has affected your child. A copy of the complaints policy is available on the [school website](#).

Support for families

The Governing Body are all fully aware of the continuing cost of living crisis and so I wanted to take this opportunity to promote support available to families.

All children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 are entitled to receive a government-funded school meal. At Duke's all meals are cooked and prepared on site by a dedicated catering team led by Louise Agg. Visit the [school meals webpage](#) for more information.

Pupils in Year 3 and above may be able to get free school meals if you receive certain benefits. An estimated 200,000 eligible families miss out on free school meals because parents think they are not entitled. Even if you think you are not eligible, it is still worth applying by visiting the [Derbyshire County Council](#) webpage.

As well as helping you with the cost of school meals, Duke's also receive additional funding from the government for all children in receipt of free school meals. The [Pupil Premium page](#) on the school website provides details on how this is spent in school.

Finally, visit Derbyshire County Council's dedicated [cost of living webpage](#) for more information about other support available.

Best regards,

Tom Plant
Chair of Governors