



# SAUNCEY WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Head Teacher: Mr S Lloyd

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## The Use of Foul, Abusive and Inappropriate Language at Sauncey Wood - Year 6

Dear Parents and Carers

As you well know, we have been working hard at Sauncey Wood to encourage our oldest children to always be the best they can be in all areas of school life. We remain immensely proud of the positive attitudes they hold towards their learning and how they are using the values of the school in each and every learning experience.

Sadly, we are not seeing this in times where the children are unsupervised. In fact, we are seeing a record number of unsafe behaviours being presented, in particular, the use of inappropriate, foul and abusive language.

Today I am writing to you to inform you of our '**ZERO Tolerance**' approach to any form of bad language used in school. Whether this be in unstructured time, during lesson time or running the daily mile. **At no point is swearing allowed at our school.** Having taken advice from our external advisors, once we have been through the usual sequence of consequences in school, if further action is required we have no choice but to impose a fixed term exclusion.

Never have I had to introduce such drastic measures, as the ones that I am going to lay out for you now. This is my seventh year as Headteacher of Sauncey Wood and it shocks me in having to do this.

Quite simply, there is to be no use of inappropriate, foul or abusive language as this will result in a distinct and clear action as per the following:-

- 1. A phone call will come from the Headteacher informing the parent/carer(s) that unacceptable language has been used.**
- 2. This phone call will be a clear instruction to the parent/carer to come and collect their child from school and they will be removed from all learning and collected immediately from the school grounds. This will be recorded as a fixed term exclusion.**
- 3. The child will return to school the following day following a reintegration meeting with the parent/carer(s).**
- 4. This will be repeated as required, should the child continue to use bad language and believe that use of inappropriate language is acceptable at Sauncey Wood.**

I have spoken in depth with the year group and I know that this is not every child. However, it is now time to act and ensure that any of this unsafe behaviour is dealt with swiftly and that there are clear consequences in place.

As a school, we cannot control the exposure to inappropriate language and online content outside of school, despite working tirelessly to educate the children and working with many individual families to support them too.



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There has always been a clear procedure in place, that is followed and monitored on a regular basis, and that what we are doing now is building on that, in response to the situation as it is now.

Meeting with the rest of the Primary Headteachers' of Harpenden on a regular basis, and having discussed this at length numerous times, I want to make it clear that this is both a local and National problem post-lockdown that almost all primary schools are dealing with.

Although I cannot share confidential information on individual cases, a huge amount of support is in place to help children who are exposed to inappropriate language / content at home. This support is there in part to protect the learning of all pupils.

As ever, I am grateful for your support and understanding in the matter and I am always happy to discuss any concerns or worries you may have.

With kindest regards and in the hope of eliminating this type of language use at Sauncey Wood.

Mr Lloyd  
Head teacher



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