



## **Barring Disruptive Parents From School Premises**

**Lead Person :** Headmaster

**Support Persons :** SLT

**Governing Body Committee :**

The vast majority of parents are, of course, positive partners with the school in the education of their children. They enjoy access to the school and teachers to inform themselves about their children's work and progress.

Exceptionally however, parents may act in such a disruptive and abusive way that normal access to the school has to be barred or restricted (perhaps requiring the presence of a third party) in the interest of pupil and staff welfare. The Court of Appeal in January 2000 has set down certain principles which have to be observed when denying normal access to parents. It is essential in law that the parent be given an opportunity to 'make representations' as to why (s)he should not have access barred or restricted before any such prohibition is actually issued. The Head Teacher should write to the parent explaining that because of his/ her behaviour it is intended to bar him/her from the school premises or to restrict access and asking whether the parent wishes to put forward any views on the issue. A short time (say, 5 working days) should be allowed for the parent to reply in writing. On the receipt of any views or at the expiry of the deadline the Head Teacher is free to confirm, modify or cancel the action which it was intended to take.

In cases of real emergency it would be open to a Head Teacher to ban a parent with immediate effect but temporarily until such time as the parent's representations' have been received as outlined in the previous paragraph. At that time the Head Teacher could confirm, modify or cancel the temporary ban.

The actual power to remove a person causing 'nuisance or disturbance' on school premises is derived from section 547 of the Education Act 1996 which authorises a police constable or a person whom the LEA have authorised (i.e. the Head Teacher or an officer) to remove offenders from the premises. In case of Foundation or Voluntary Aided schools it is the governors who authorised the Head Teacher to take action. The LEA can authorise action in those schools only with the agreement of the governors.

For further information : Area Education Officers

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