

**Legal Status:**

- Complies with Regulation 3(3)(7) of The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations, Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education guidance and HM Government Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education" (2016) along with any further amendments as they are published.

**Applies to:**

- Whole School including EYFS

**Related Documents:**

- School Policies
- Website

**Availability**

This policy is made available to parents, staff and pupils in the following ways: via the School website, and on request a copy may be obtained from the School Office.

**Monitoring and Review:**

- This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Headteacher.
- The Proprietor (who is also the Headteacher) undertakes an annual review of this policy and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than one year from the date shown below, or earlier if changes in legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed: *C. Redgrave*

Date: August 2023

Mrs Christine Redgrave  
Headteacher and Proprietor

**Our School Ethos**

*Eastcourt Independent School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils fulfil their potential.*

Eastcourt Independent School is a private day school for boys and girls from 4-11 years old. It has no religious affiliation - we value parents and pupils of all faiths and none.

*It is my intention that our school aims to work with parents to help children grow into caring, well-educated individuals who have a good understanding and strong commitment to develop*

- *personal qualities that help the society in which we live*
- *an appreciation of others, and*
- *tolerance and compassion to build a positive future.*

Mrs C.Redgrave, Headteacher, 2011

### **Our School Background and Philosophy**

Eastcourt has always had an outstanding reputation as a pre-preparatory and preparatory school for boys and girls between the ages of four and eleven. It has firmly established itself as a traditional, yet exciting school where parents from many backgrounds send their children.

Emphasis in the school is thus on the development of a caring and considerate attitude to others, good manners, self-discipline, service to the community and the pursuit of excellence. All this, of course, has a direct bearing on our curriculum design.

Helping a child develop all or some of these qualities is very difficult without the cooperation of the parents concerned. It is because of the fundamental importance of the home that we encourage parents to take an interest in all facets of school life.

### **Our School Attitudes and Discipline**

A school's pastoral policy and approach to discipline are crucial factors in its effectiveness as an educator of children for life. Our objective at Eastcourt is to develop the highest standards of motivation and behaviour in a supportive environment. To these ends, we endeavour to ensure that each child develops a strong sense of responsibility, self-discipline, care and tolerance for the views of other people.

#### ***A Positive Attitude***

We are committed to ensuring there is an ethos of enthusiasm in the school, with emphasis being placed on positive rather than negative aspects of behaviour. We believe that if children are praised and rewarded for the positive things they do (e.g. showing sensible behaviour, courtesy, self-control, a caring attitude, hard work, etc), this will serve not only to encourage these desirable aspects of behaviour at school and in the home but also to foster these traits in all aspects of the child's life.

#### ***Discipline***

Children at Eastcourt are made aware that certain standards of behaviour are expected from them. We recognise the need for consistency throughout the whole school, so that all staff expect the same standards of behaviour and that all issues are dealt with in a similar way. In the first instance, individual members of staff are responsible for exercising moderate discipline in line with the school's general policy. If necessary, the matter may be referred to the Deputy Head or Headteacher. We believe it is important that once an incident has been dealt with, it is considered 'over and done with' and will not be referred to again.

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## **Eastcourt Independent School Way**

At Eastcourt, we will try to be learners who try our best in everything we do.

### **Our School's Academic Mission**

The Academic Mission of Eastcourt Independent School seeks to:

- educate the whole child by providing opportunities in breadth and depth for the concurrent development of all dimensions of school life – emotional, spiritual, academic, cultural, aesthetic, moral, physical and practical;
- discover and develop the unique talents and abilities of each individual, in accordance with the philosophy and vision of our foundation;
- adopt a forward-looking and innovative approach which reflects our awareness of current and future trends without sacrificing traditional strengths;
- provide high-calibre staff who are themselves open to learning and who are given appropriate training opportunities to enhance the educational life of the school as an integral part of their professional development;
- provide quality learning environments with a happy, vibrant atmosphere, and within them a sense of purposeful learning and a climate of open, friendly communication, mutual trust and respect; and
- create a culture of achievement and positive reinforcement at all levels of ability through appropriately differentiated expectations.

Our commitment to learning is fundamental to achieving our aim:

- develop individual potential, willing and autonomous learners, and the highest standards in spiritual, social and academic life;
- provide a programme of lessons and activities which will best develop literacy and numeracy skills;
- enable children to acquire knowledge of, and respect for, moral and cultural values;
- sustain and nurture the partnership between home and school;
- affirm concern for others, expressed by our courteousness and discipline;
- recognise, appreciate and celebrate cultural, aesthetic and creative achievements;
- create a stimulating and happy environment in which children can reach their full potential;
- establish a caring community in which children are supported and support each other;
- foster self-respect, self-discipline and a sense of responsibility and concern for others;
- encourage love and care for the local and world environment and community;
- provide a broad, balanced, relevant, rich and differentiated curriculum;
- foster a positive and enquiring attitude to learning which encourages self-motivation and perseverance;
- promote close partnerships with parents and the local people and organisations;
- provide a curriculum based on the National Curriculum which goes above and beyond it as is appropriate;
- provide continual assessment and evaluation to monitor each child's progress.

### **Our School Staff Vision**

All staff must strive for the well-being of the children, observe a purposeful code of conduct and work in harmony with one another to create an environment and a sense of common purpose which we would desire for our own children. Staff should aim to:

- help the children to achieve our educational aims;
- create a happy working atmosphere;
- develop children's self-discipline and self-control;
- encourage children to achieve in all aspects of the learning process;
- ensure that children recognise and respect the rights of others;
- help the children to work as a team and as individuals;

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- help children to learn to support and help each other;
- create an awareness of the values of honesty, fairness and respect for others;
- facilitate sensible and rational solutions to conflicts; and
- encourage accountability for behaviour.

When speaking to children, staff must be:

- expectant of good behaviour;
- sensitive to the emotional and intellectual understanding of the child;
- calm but firm;
- assertive when the situation requires it;
- ready to encourage; and
- positive in comments.