Bridgewater Primary

Together rain or shine

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Building a Culture of Mutual Respect in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

Dear KS2 Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you about our expectations here at Bridgewater regarding **respectful behaviour**. Many children in our Key Stage Two classes consistently show respect in the way in which they communicate with each other and with adults across the school. However, school staff have reported an increase in disrespectful behaviours shown by the older children towards adults and I am writing to you to ask for your help in tackling this issue.

As you know, **We are respectful** is one of Bridgewater's values. We teach the children the importance of respect and we recognise and praise respectful behaviours when we see them. We place a high value on **mutual respect** and all the adults in school try to model respectful behaviour in their interactions with children, including as they progress through the school and get ready to move on to the next stage of their education.

Unfortunately, as this school year has progressed, all the teachers in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have noticed an increase in 'answering back' by children. In addition, many of the other adults who work in school report a drop in the level of respect shown to them by some of the older children.

Clearly, this is concerning and I would like to ask for your support in helping children to meet our expectations in three key areas.

1. Active listening

In Key Stage 2, lessons become more complex. When a child listens to an adult the first time, it ensures that learning time is maximised. We expect children to do their best to:

- Give their full attention when an adult is speaking;
- Follow instructions promptly and without the need for repeated reminders.

2. Respectful communication

We want our pupils to be confident, articulate individuals who can express their views clearly and we value our children's voices. However, there is a time and place for discussion and, unfortunately, some children are questioning adult instructions in a disrespectful manner. We expect children to:

- Understand that instructions given by staff are for the benefit of safety and progress of the whole class;

- Accept and follow the instructions politely.

3. Respect for all adults

Respect at Bridgewater extends beyond the classroom teacher. It applies to **everyone** who helps our school run smoothly, including:

- Teaching Assistants;
- Midday Supervisors and Kitchen Staff;
- Office Staff, Site Manager and other support staff;
- Rialize wraparound staff;
- Adults who run clubs, both school and external;
- Any other adults who are in school in an official capacity, such as visitors or volunteers.

We also expect Year 5 and Year 6 children who walk to and from school to display respectful behaviours during their journeys.

Whether in the playground, in the dining room, at the office, in the forest, at a lunchtime or after-school club or on a school trip, we expect our pupils to treat **every adult** with the same level of courtesy and kindness, demonstrating **active listening** and **respectful communication**.

How you can support us

We find that the most successful outcomes happen when children hear the same message at home and at school. You can help by:

- Reminding your child that showing respect to adults is not just a Bridgewater School rule, but a vital life skill for secondary school and beyond;
- Role modelling to reinforce the idea that even when we disagree with someone, we remain polite in our responses;
- Passing consistent messages. If your child mentions being corrected by a member of staff, please support the school's decision. This unified front helps children understand the boundaries clearly.

Our commitment

We will continue to teach about respect and to celebrate respectful behaviour whenever we see it. Many of the children in Key Stage 2 are fantastic ambassadors for our school and set a high standard of mutual respect for us all.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a respectful environment for your children.

Kind regards,

Sarah Alexander
Deputy Head and Behaviour Lead

Thea George
KS2 Phase Lead