



## Lancing Parish Council

### Behaviour code for children and young people

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This code of behaviour was written in consultation with children and young people by the NSPCC and has been adopted by Lancing Parish Council.
- 1.2 It aims to make sure everyone who participates in the Lancing Parish Youth Council knows what is expected of them and feels safe, respected and valued.
- 1.3 The Clerk to the Parish and Youth Council must make sure that everyone taking part in the Youth Council has seen, understood and agreed to follow the code of behaviour, and that they understand the consequences of inappropriate behaviour.

## **2.0 BASIC PRINCIPLES**

This code of behaviour aims to:

- identify acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- encourage cooperation, honesty, fairness and respect
- create an environment where your self-esteem, self-respect and self-confidence will grow
- encourage you to recognise and respect the rights of others
- encourage you to take responsibility for your own behaviour
- help resolve conflicts and make it clear what will happen if you decide not to follow the code.

## **3.0 DOS AND DON'TS**

**You should:**

- cooperate with others
- be friendly
- listen to others
- be helpful
- have good manners
- treat everyone with respect
- take responsibility for your own behaviour
- talk to the Clerk or Parish Council representative about anything that worries or concerns you
- follow this code of behaviour and other rules (including the law)
- join in and have fun!

**You shouldn't:**

- be disrespectful to anyone else
- bully each other (online or offline)
- behave in a way that could be intimidating
- be abusive towards anyone.

## **4.0 WHAT HAPPENS IF I DECIDE NOT TO FOLLOW THE CODE OF BEHAVIOUR?**

- 4.1 This code of behaviour is part of a process for making sure everyone who participates in the Youth Council receives appropriate support.

#### 4.2 **Minor or first-time incident**

If you behave inappropriately, staff, Councillors or volunteers will remind you about the code of behaviour and ask you to comply with it. They will give you an opportunity to change your behaviour. This gives you the chance to reflect and to plan a positive response with support from staff and/or volunteers.

#### 4.3 **Following the traffic light system**

**1** - If you continue to behave inappropriately after your first reminder, or if your behaviour is more serious, you will be given a formal, green light warning by the Clerk to the Youth Council.

The incident will be recorded, and your parents or carers will be informed. He/she will also talk with you about what happened and agree what support you need to improve your behaviour in the future.

**2** - If you continue to behave inappropriately after the green light warning, you will be given a formal amber light warning by the Clerk to the Youth Council. It may also be decided that a sanction is appropriate, such as restricting you from attending the Youth Council.

Again, the incident will be recorded, and your parents or carers will be informed. He/she will also talk with you about what happened and agree what support you need to improve your behaviour in the future.

**3** - If the support that has been put in place isn't helping you to change your behaviour, the Clerk to the Youth Council may need to give you a formal red light warning. Again, the incident will be recorded, and your parents or carers will be informed.

At this point, the Clerk to the Youth Council and Parish Council representatives may need to talk with you and your parents about other services that might be more able to give you the support you need.

### **5.0 CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES**

5.1 If any member of staff, Councillor or volunteer becomes concerned that your behaviour suggests you may be at risk of significant harm or that you may present a risk of significant harm to other children, they will follow child protection procedures. This may involve making a referral to the local authority children's social care department.

5.2 If child protection procedures are necessary, this will be talked through with you and your parents as soon as possible, unless doing so would endanger your safety or interfere with a police investigation.

#### 5.3 **The role of parents and carers**

Your parents and carers are valuable partners in promoting positive behaviour and they will be involved as appropriate and will always be informed and involved if you receive a formal warning for inappropriate behaviour.