



## Working with Advocates

This document sets out expectations for advocates working with parents of pupils at Eleanor Palmer Primary School. It supports all stakeholders in working constructively and cooperatively in the best interests of pupils at our school. It has been agreed with the local SENDIASS service as setting out reasonable expectations of advocates and schools. It aims to recognise the rights of parents, the obligations of the school and advocates working with schools and parents.

The school will:

- recognise that parents have a right to choose a friend or advocate to attend meetings with them, and the school will accommodate this by scheduling and/or rescheduling meetings wherever possible.
- work constructively with advocates when appointed by parents.
- recognise that advocates and parents are committed to getting the best outcome for their child.
- publish this document on the school website and share a copy of this code with any parent who appoints an advocate, and any advocates appointed.

School staff will:

- work with advocates and parents towards securing the best outcomes for the child/young person.
- share relevant information with parents and advocates in a timely fashion.
- keep a record of discussions and decisions taken at any meeting.

In return, the school will expect that advocates:

- work constructively and respectfully with the school staff in and outside meetings, including in any public comments they make about the school and its staff.
- act appropriately and in good faith.
- do not record meetings without prior consent.
- keep confidential all discussions with the school and their clients.
- use social media in a respectful, responsible and constructive way, without naming, targeting or harassing school staff or pupils.
- speak respectfully to all those present in meetings, as appropriate to a professional meeting.
- sign a copy of this code to acknowledge that they have read and understood it.
- accept that the meeting may be stopped if the terms of this code are breached.

Should the school believe that an advocate's conduct has breached reasonable expectations of professional conduct, we may restrict our engagement with that advocate and their participation in meetings with the school as it will not be in the interest of the child.

Where this is the case the school will signpost the parent to SENDIASS where they can secure free impartial and specialist advice. School staff are also happy to participate in a meeting in order to resolve issues and where necessary, formal mediation.