

Parent Advocacy – Acceptable Agreement

This document sets out expectations for advocates working with parents of young people and students at Brecknock and Torriano schools. 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 wherever possible.
- Wherever possible, work enthusiastically and constructively with advocates when appointed by parents.
- Recognise that advocates and parents are committed to getting the best outcome for their child.
- Work with advocates and parents to secure the best outcomes for the child/young person.
- Share information with parents and advocates in a timely fashion.
- Keep a clear record of discussions and decisions taken at any meeting.
- Publish this code on our website and share a copy of this code with any parents who appoints an advocate and any advocates appointed.

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, in good faith and competently.
- Do not record meetings without prior consent.
- Respect confidentiality of discussions with the school and their clients.
- Use social media in a responsible and constructive way, without targeting or harassment of school staff or pupils.
- Any verbal abuse or conduct that crosses the boundary of appropriate behaviour will lead to the meeting being stopped.

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, we will always signpost the parent to SENDIASS where they can secure free impartial and specialist advice. We are also happy to participate in a meeting to resolve any issue and where necessary, enter formal mediation.

Acceptable Agreement for advocates attending meetings with parents:

I will:

- Place the interest of the child at the forefront of our discussions
- Be respectful towards members of staff and the school at all times during the meeting

I will not:

- Covertly record the meeting without the consent of all present
- Use social media to criticise or make derogatory comments about the school or members of staff on the issues discussed

Signed (advocate):

Date:

Signed (school):

Date: