

LORD DERAMORE'S SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers

Many of you will be aware of incidents that have occurred in School over the past two terms. While it is not possible for us or for the staff to provide details or indeed to explain all the actions that are currently underway to address these issues, we would like to reassure you that, as always, our principal concern is the welfare and wellbeing of the children in our care.

Two of the most important principles which have underpinned the ethos of our School for many years are respect for others and civilized behaviour: they apply not just to the children but to the whole community – children, staff, parents/carers and visitors. We are writing to you now because during the present School year, the Governing Body and many parents have been extremely concerned by reports that these principles have been disregarded by a few parents who have behaved in an aggressive, abusive and intimidating way to the Headteacher and other staff and, in the process, caused much distress to the School as a whole.

To deal with these situations, the School has a Policy (available on the School's website) about abusive or threatening behaviour on School premises. It states unambiguously that such behaviour towards school staff or other members of the school community will not be tolerated and that when it does occur, action will be taken to deal with the person or persons concerned. The wellbeing of staff and children is of paramount concern to the Governing Body and such was the seriousness of these incidents that the School had to involve officers from the City of York and the Council's Education/Employer lawyer, in accordance with our Policy.

We greatly regret having to write about these matters but felt that all parents and carers should know that the School is tackling these problems vigorously. We very much hope that the excellent relationships between all parts of our community which have been a hallmark of the School will not be damaged again.

The Governing Body of Lord Deramore's School

July 2011