

# UPTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Part of The Viking Academy Trust

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Dear Parents and families

The Trustees of the Viking Academy Trust, the governors at Upton Juniors, and myself have decided to take an unprecedented stand in support of Miss Arthur, our Head of School at Upton.

For your information we have decided to officially forbid two of our parents from access to our buildings, field and surrounding area up to and including the school perimeter gates and fence. They have also been barred from attending all events Year 6 families would be invited to. This decision will remain in force until the end of this summer term.

The extraordinary decision was taken having received evidence of inflammatory, derogatory comments about Miss Arthur, as well as threats of violence against her. These comments, that cross boundaries of decency and moral behaviour are made by adults – they are the very same boundaries that all our children know it is wrong to cross and this is reinforced as part of their ongoing learning within our E-safety programme.

I have also issued a warning to a small number of individuals who have been complicit in posting incorrect information and unkind personal comment and allegations on social media.

The actions of a handful of parents are in direct breach of our '[Parents Code of Conduct' Policy](#) and [Zero Tolerance Statement](#) which states... ***'In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate the following from parents and carers:***

- ***Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.***
- ***Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school or within the school grounds to other parents.***
- ***Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social media sites.***

This matter has arisen in the aftermath of a safeguarding issue during which our Head of School and her senior team worked tirelessly and professionally to ensure the safety of children at all times, operating in tandem with other agencies including the police, as part of a fast developing legally sensitive investigation.

I trust that our action to support our colleague will see an end to such unwarranted and threatening comments. If this situation does continue then we will seek legal advice.

In closing I must say a huge thank you to the majority of our families who have been so supportive and who, once again, have offered their strong verbal and written support for the way that our school community continues to conduct itself.

It is clear that our decent, united and strong school community means a lot to you all, as it does to our staff, governors and leadership team.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Lewis

Executive Headteacher