



St Mary and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Parent/Visitor Code of Conduct

The governing body of St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School encourages close links with parents and the community. It believes that pupils benefit when the relationship between home and school is a positive one.

As a partnership, our parents understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip their children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continually welcome and encourage parents or carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

To create the best outcomes for children requires the relationship between home and school to be based on the principles of care, integrity, trust and mutual respect. The maintenance of this relationship is important to ensure that a child or children are safe (please read our safeguarding policy) and not open to undue distress and anxiety.

Guidance

As well as following our Home/School Agreement and holding the above principles in mind, parents, carers and visitors are reminded of the following:

- To respect the caring ethos and values of the school
- Teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children.
- Parents should approach school staff for help to resolve an issue in an appropriate manner
- All members of the school community should be treated with respect using appropriate language and behaviour.
- The school needs to work with a child in order to clarify their version of events in order to bring about an appropriate solution to an issue.
- To correct their child's actions especially where it could lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour – both on and off the school premises.
- To park outside the school in a safe and considerate manner ensuring the safety of all children and ensuring full access to the Wellbridge Surgery is available at all times

All members of staff have the right to work without fear of violence and abuse. We expect parents and other visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards members of school staff. This policy outlines the steps that will be taken where behaviour is unacceptable.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school will not tolerate parents, carers or visitors exhibiting the following:

- Inappropriate behaviour on the school premises.
- Loud or offensive language or displaying temper.
- Threats to a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Sending abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications to anyone within the school community.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social media sites.
- Physical or verbal aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. (Note: Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises. (Alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events).
- Animals (other than guide dogs) being brought on to school premises.

Should any of the above occur on school premises the school may consider it necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities and/or sadly, consider banning the offending adult from entering the school premises.

This list is not exhaustive but seeks to provide illustrations of unacceptable behaviour.

Procedure to be followed

- a) If a parent exhibits any of the above behaviours the teacher will end the conversation and withdraw from the situation referring the matter to the headteacher or deputy head teacher who will make an appointment to deal with the matter at a later date. At this point the parent will be expected to leave the premises.
- b) A letter will be sent home to the parent outlining the time, date and topic to be discussed at the meeting. A log of the incident will be noted and kept.
- c) If necessary, the school's complaints procedures (available on the school website) should be followed. Where all procedures have been exhausted, and aggression or intimidation continues, or where there is an act of violence, a parent or carer may be banned by the head teacher from the school premises for a period of time, subject to review.

In imposing a ban the following steps will be taken:

1. The parent/carers will be informed, in writing, that she/he is banned from the premises, subject to review, and what will happen if the ban is breached, e.g. that police involvement or an injunction application may follow.
2. Where an assault has led to a ban, a statement indicating that the matter has been reported to the local authority and the police will be included.
3. The chair of governors/LA will be informed of the ban.
4. Where appropriate, arrangements for pupils being delivered to, and collected from the school gate will be clarified.

Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents or pupils.

The Governors of St Mary & St Joseph's consider the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable. Any concerns you may have about the school or your child/children must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, where they will be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

Libellous or Defamatory posts - In the event that any pupil or parent/carers of a child/children at St Mary & St Joseph's is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site. All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report content or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/carers or pupil removes such comments immediately.

Cyber Bullying – we take very seriously the use of cyber bullying by one child or a parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying.

The school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse on social networking and other sites.

Conclusion

In implementing this policy, the school will, as appropriate, seek advice from appropriate authorities, to ensure fairness and consistency.

Thank you for abiding by this policy in our school. Together we can create a positive and uplifting environment not only for the children but also all who work and visit our school.

Note: Can parents please ensure they make all persons responsible for collecting their children aware of this policy.