



St Mary's C.E. Primary School

Parent Respectful Engagement Policy

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1. Purpose and scope

At St Mary's Primary School we believe it's important to:

- Work in partnership with parents to support their child's learning
- Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and parents
- Model appropriate behaviour for our pupils at all times

To help us do this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community. This includes staff (through the Staff Code of Conduct Policy) and pupils (through our Behaviour Policy). This Parent Respectful Engagement Policy aims to help the school work together with parents by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

- Anyone with parental responsibility for a pupil
- Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or child-minders)

2. Our expectations of parents and carers

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils, especially regarding the safeguarding of ALL children in the school
- Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech and behaviour
- Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct
- Follow the school leadership structure to communicate or escalate questions or concerns
 - Class Teacher
 - Senior Leadership
 - Deputy Head/Head Teacher
- Maintain a respectful tone when sending emails
- Where possible, send/schedule emails to arrive between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday

3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches)
- Swearing, or using offensive language
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- Threatening another member of the school community
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms
- Use of physical or emotional intervention with children that raise safeguarding concerns
- Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult
- Disciplining another person's child – please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs)
- Smoking, vaping or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs

4. Breaching the Parent Respectful Engagement Policy

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the Parent Respectful Engagement Policy, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the parent about the incident.

Depending on the nature of the incident, the school may then:

- Terminate a conversation with immediate effect
- Return emails that do not align with the school's Respectful Engagement Policy to the sender, giving parents the opportunity to revise and resend the message in accordance with school guidelines
- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent in to school to meet with a senior member of staff or the headteacher
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from the local authority's legal team/the trust's legal team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the parent from the school site

The school will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the Respectful Engagement Policy rests with the headteacher.

The Headteacher will consult the Chair of Governors before banning a parent from the school site.