



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Parent Code of Conduct

Serving with Love; Striving for Excellence

Our Mission

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is a safe and caring school where the Gospel Values of Love, Truth and Compassion for others, underpin all that we do.

We aim to work to create our vision by ensuring that our school is a Christ-centred community where prayer and worship are a natural part of life and each member is valued, cared for and helped to develop as an individual.

Our school is distinguished by the quality of care we extend to all its members, by our respect for human life and the dignity of the individual.

Our school community is further enhanced as we work in partnership with parents and the parish. We aim to build positive relationships, encouraging in us a sense of self-respect for others and for all life, which is reflected in our conduct.

Code of Conduct

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we value our strong relationship with parents and carers and we are very proud and fortunate to have a dedicated and supportive school community. Together this helps us achieve the very best for the children in a mutually supportive partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community.

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 and carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

To truly 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, in keeping with our Safeguarding Policy, and not open to undue distress and anxiety.

Guidance

As well as following the guidance set out in our Partnership Agreement and holding the above principles in mind, parents, carers and visitors are reminded:

- To respect the caring ethos and values of the school;
- That both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children;
- That approaching school staff for help to resolve an issue is done in an appropriate manner;
- That all members of the school community are treated with respect using appropriate language and behaviour;
- That 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 use other strategies rather than using 'staff' as threats to admonish their children's behaviour.

Supporting a safe and peaceful school environment

The school will not tolerate parents, carers or visitors exhibiting the following behaviours:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's operation or activities anywhere on the school premises;
- Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises;
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper;
- Threatening, in any way, a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil;
- Damaging or destroying school property;
- Sending abusive or threatening emails 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/parents/staff, at the school on social media;
- The use of physical or verbal aggression towards another adult or child;
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. Such an approach to a child may be seen as an assault on that child and may have legal consequences;
- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises;
- Dogs being brought on to school premises (other than medical assistance and guide dogs).

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

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to please make sure all persons collecting their children are aware of this Code of Conduct.

What happens if someone ignores or breaks the Code?

In the event of any parent/carer/visitor to the school breaking this Code, then proportionate actions will be taken as follows:

- The parent/carer/visitor would be invited to attend a meeting at school.
- If the parent/carer/visitor refuses to attend the meeting then the school will write to them and ask them to stop the behaviour causing the concern and warn that if they do not, they may be banned from the school premises. If this behaviour continues, the parent/carer/visitor will again be written to and informed that a ban is now in place.

Note:

(1) A ban from the school can be introduced without having to go through the steps offered above in more serious cases;

(2) Site bans will normally be limited in the first instance.

- In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is considered to be a serious and potentially criminal matter, the concerns will, in the first instance, be referred to the police. This will include any or all cases of threats of violence and actual violence to any child, member of staff or governor in the school. This will also include anything that could be seen as a sign of harassment of any member of the school community, such as any form of insulting social media post or any form of social media cyber bullying.
- In cases where evidence suggests that behaviour would be tantamount to libel or slander then the school will refer the matter to the school's Legal Team for further action. In cases where the Code of Conduct has been broken but the breach was not libellous, slanderous or a criminal matter, then the school will send out a formal letter to the parent/carer/visitor with an invite to a meeting, as stated above.

Issues of conduct with the use of social media

Social media keeps us connected and there are various online school groups managed by parents for parents, such as school Facebook pages, and they can be a wonderful source of knowledge, support and advice.

Within these spaces however we ask that everyone uses common sense when discussing school life online.

Think before you post

We ask that social media, whether public or private, should not be used to fuel campaigns and voice complaints against the school, school staff, parents or pupils. We take very seriously the inappropriate use of social media by a parent to publicly humiliate or criticise another parent, pupil or member of staff.

If parents have any concerns about their child in relation to the school, they should:

1. Initially contact the class teacher
2. If the concern remains, they should contact the Headteacher
3. If still unresolved, they should contact the school governors through the school's complaint's procedure

Social media should not be used as a medium to air any concerns or grievances.

Online activity which we consider inappropriate:

- Identifying or posting images/videos of pupils;
- Abusive or personal comments about members of staff, pupils or other parents;
- Bringing the school into disrepute;
- Posting defamatory or libellous comments;
- Messages circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about members of staff or pupils;
- Using social media to publicly challenge school policies or discuss issues about individual children or members of staff;
- Using social media to contact members of staff directly to enquire about or discuss school matters;
- Threatening behaviour, such as verbally intimidating members of staff, or using bad language;
- Breaching school security procedures.

At our school we take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously and will deal with any reported incidents appropriately, in line with the actions outlined above.

Together we create a positive and caring environment, distinguished by the quality of care we extend to all the school community, by our respect for human life and the dignity of the individual.

We thank you for your cooperation in adhering to this Parent Code of Conduct.