

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL



"We love because God first loved us"
(1 John 4:19)

Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and Visitors

We are very proud and fortunate to have a very dedicated and supportive school community. Staff, Governors, parents and carers all recognise that the education of our children is a partnership between us.

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to provide the expectations of the conduct for all parents, carers and visitors connected to our school.

We are committed to resolving difficulties in a constructive manner, through an open and positive dialogue.

As well as following the guidance set out in our Home-School Agreement:

We expect visitors, parents and guardians to:

- Respect the Catholic ethos of our school and set a good example by their own behaviour both on school premises, in the areas around our school and when accompanying classes on school visits.
- Understand that we all need to work for the benefit of children.
- Treat all member of the school community with respect – setting a good example in both speech and behaviour.
- Keep our children safe by adhering to the school's request to park safely outside the school gates during morning, lunchtime and afternoon collections, maintaining considerate behaviour towards the schools neighbours and each other.
- Parents to seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's version of events to bring about a peaceful resolution to any issues.
- Parents to correct own children's behaviour in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour.
- Approach the school to resolve any issues:
 - Initially contact the class teacher
 - If the concern remains, contact the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.
 - If still unresolved, contact the school governors through the complaints procedure.
- Abide by the schools use of photography and social media codes and not use social media, whether public or private, to fuel campaigns and voice complaints against the school, school staff, parents or children.

Behaviour that will not be tolerated:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's normal operation or activities anywhere on the school premises.
- Any behaviour that causes a person to feel threatened on the school premises.
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper.
- Threatening a member of staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or child in any way. This includes sending abusive or threatening emails, text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications (including social media).
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff/governors at the school on social media.
- The use of physical, verbal or written aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment of 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. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Smoking, Vaping, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises (other than official organised events).
- Dogs being brought on to the school premises. (other than guide/therapy dogs).

Parents and carers must make sure anyone nominated to collect their children are aware of and agree to adhere to this code of conduct

Breach of Conduct

What happens if someone ignores or breaks the code?

Should **any** of the above occur on school premises or in connection with school, the school may feel it is necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities or consider banning the offending adult from entering the school premises. In the event of any school parent/carer or visitor breaking this code then proportionate actions will be taken as follows:

- In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is considered to be a serious and potentially criminal matter, the concerns will be referred to the Police. This will include all cases of threats or violence and actual violence to any child, staff or governor in the school and includes 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 Trust'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 Headteacher will write to the parent/carer to request to attend a meeting. Refusal to attend the meeting will result in a letter to the parent/carer requesting a stop to the behaviour causing the concern, and warn that failure to do so may result in a ban from school premises. Should the unacceptable behaviour continue, the parent/carer will be advised by letter that a ban is now in place.

Note:

- In more serious cases a ban from the school can be introduced immediately without having to go through all the steps offered above.
- Please also see the Trust's 'Unacceptable Behaviour on the School Premises' Policy.

Conduct and the use of Social Media

Most people take part in online activities and social media. It is a way to communicate and keeps us connected. Within these spaces, however we ask that common sense is used when discussing school life online and always abide by the relevant legislation. **'Think before you post'**.

Inappropriate use of social media on school matters by a parent, visitor or carer is taken very seriously.

Parents should not use social media as a medium to air any concerns or grievances.

Social Media activities that we consider inappropriate:

- Abusive or personal comments about staff, governors, children or other parents
- Bringing the school into disrepute
- Posting defamatory or libellous comments
- Identifying or posting images/videos of children without parental consent
- Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff or children
- Using social media to publicly challenge school policies or discuss issues about individual children or members of staff
- Threatening behaviour - such as verbally intimidating staff, using offensive language or hostile speech or mannerisms
- Breaching school security procedures.

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

Thank you for abiding by this Code of Conduct in our school. Together we create a positive and uplifting environment, not only for children, but also for all who work and visit our school.

By being a part of our school community, it is expected that everyone agrees to this Code of Conduct.