



## **Parent Code of Conduct**

### **Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Primary School**

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# Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School

## Parents Code of Conduct

**With Christ at our centre, we love, listen and learn**

At Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community. As a partnership, our parents will understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about the expected conduct. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

### Guidance

**As well as following the guidance set out in our Home-School Agreement, we expect parents, carers and visitors to:**

- Respect the caring ethos of our school
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children.
- Demonstrate that **all** members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour.

**In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following:**

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, playground, dining hall, an employee's office, office area or any other area of the school grounds
- Using loud or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- 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.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school, on Facebook or any other social sites. (*See Appendix 1*). Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through

the appropriate channels by speaking to the appropriate member of staff, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned. If you are unsure who the appropriate member of staff is to deal with your concern, please seek advice from the school's Pupil and Family Liaison Manager.

- The use of physical 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. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property or outside the school gate.
- Dogs being brought on to school premises.

Should **any** of the above behaviour occur on school premises the school may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and if necessary, even ban the offending adult from entering the school grounds.

We trust that parents and carers will assist our school with the implementation of this policy and we thank you for your continuing support of the school.

Please note that in addition to the above: *"A school may consider that aggressive, abusive or insulting behaviour, or language from a parent presents a risk to staff or pupils. It is enough for a member of staff or a pupil to feel threatened. In such a circumstance, schools have a power in common law to bar the parent from the premises."*

*Department of Education*

#### Appendix 1

##### **Inappropriate use of Social Network Site**

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Head teachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. The Governors of Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not be in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels. If you are unsure who the appropriate member of staff is to deal with your concern, please seek advice from the school's Pupil and Family Liaison Manager.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated at Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or any other social network site, website, or electronic device e.g. mobile phone, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the site/app. All social network sites and apps have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site/app and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites, apps etc. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly is the issue of cyber bullying and the use 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. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.