



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Faith Family Future

Parent/Visitor Code of Conduct October 2016

This Code of Conduct is an unsigned agreement between our parents/carers, their families and visitors at St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we are very proud and fortunate to have a very dedicated and supportive school community. At our school the staff, governors, parents and carers all recognise that the education of our children is a partnership between us.

We expect our school community to respect our school ethos, keep our school tidy, set a good example of their own behaviour both on school premises and when accompanying classes on school visits or representing our school.

In addition, we also expect our parents, carers and visitors to keep our children safe by adhering to the school's request to park safely outside the school gates during morning and afternoon collections.

As a partnership we are all aware of the importance of good working relationships and all recognise the importance of these relationships to equip our children with the necessary skills for their education. For these reasons we will continue to welcome and encourage parents and carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

The purpose of this code of conduct is to provide the expectations around the conduct of 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. However, we understand that everyday misunderstandings can cause frustrations and have a negative impact on our relationships. Where issues arise or misconceptions take place, please contact your child's teacher or the head teacher, who will be available to meet with you and go through the issue and hopefully resolve them. Where issues remain unresolved, please follow the school's complaints procedure. This is available on the school website or a copy can be requested from the school office.

The code of conduct aims to clarify the types of behaviour that will not be tolerated and seeks parental support. It also sets out the actions the school can take should this code be ignored or where breaches occur.

Unacceptable Behaviour

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's normal 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 staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or child
- Damaging or destroying school property

- Sending abusive or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications, including social media, to anyone within the school community
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff/governors at the school on Facebook or other sites
- 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, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises
- Dogs, other than guide dogs, being brought on to the school premises

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 applying for an injunction from the court banning the offending adult(s) from entering the school premises.

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

It is important for parents and carers to make sure any persons collecting their children are aware of this policy.

What happens if someone ignores or breaks the code of conduct?

In the event of any parent/carer or visitor of the school 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 in the first instance be referred to the police. This will include any or all cases of threats or violence and actual violence to any child, staff or governor

Any behaviour that could be seen as a sign of harassment of any member of the school community, such as an insulting or derogatory social media post or any form of social media cyber bullying will be reported to the Head teacher and escalation procedures will be put in place if necessary

In cases where evidence suggests that behaviour would be tantamount to libel or slander such as unfounded claims either verbal or through social media, then the school will refer the matter to the County Council's Legal Team for further action. In cases where the code of conduct has been broken but the breach was not libellous, slanderous or criminal matter, the head teacher will send out a formal letter to the parent/carer with an invite to a meeting

If the parent/carer refuses to attend the meeting the head teacher will write to the parent/carer and ask them to stop the behaviour causing the concern, failure to do so may result in a ban from the school premises.

Issues of conduct with the use of Social Media

Most people take part in online activities and social media, however, we ask that you use 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 children.

We take very seriously inappropriate use of social media by a parent to publicly humiliate or criticise another parent, member of staff or child.

If parents have any concerns about their child or have a grievance, they should:

1. Initially contact the class teacher
2. If the concern remains they should contact the head teacher
3. If still unresolved, the school governors through the complaints procedure

Parents, carers, families and visitors to school should not use social media as a medium to air any concerns or grievances. This is not helpful as information is not always portrayed consistently and can often raise further concerns within the school community which become more difficult to address.

Inappropriate online activity:

- Identifying or posting images/videos of children
- Abusive or personal comments about staff, governors, children or other parents
- Bringing the school into disrepute
- Posting defamatory or libellous comments
- Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff, children or members of the school community
- 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, 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.

Date agreed 31/10/16

Signed Mrs L O'Mahony

Headteacher

Signed Mrs J Greenwood

Chair of Governors

Date of review October 2016