



# PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

## **Rationale**

*At St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, we value the contribution that parents/carers play in the life of the school and in their children's education. We believe that it is important to work in partnership with parents in order to support their child's learning and that we should all model appropriate behaviour for our pupils at all times. As a result of this shared belief, our school is a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for all: pupils, staff, parents and visitors. Behaviour that could cause alarm or distress to users of the premises is contrary to the aims of the school.*

*In order to achieve this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community. This includes staff (through the staff code of conduct) and pupils (through our behaviour policy).*

*This code of conduct aims to help the school work together with parents by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour to ensure that nobody in our school community feels distressed, threatened or unsafe.*

*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)*

## **Aims**

- That parents communicate within the school environment in a pleasant and courteous manner without causing distress or offence to adults or children.*
- All members of the school community must always be treated with respect.*
- All members of the school community should feel safe and secure.*

- Any concern, or perceived grievance, will be brought up, and dealt with in a calm and civilised manner.

## **Our Expectations**

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- Respect the Catholic ethos, vision and values of our school.
- Treat all members of the school community with respect.
- Work together positively with staff - as this is in the best interests of our pupils.
- Seek a peaceful solution to all issues – no members of staff, parents or children should be victims of abusive behaviour or open to threats. Parents must exercise self-control and address staff calmly, regardless of heightened emotions.
- Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern
- In the first instance, seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a timely solution to any issue and avoid misunderstandings.
- Set a good example to children at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and wider community through their use of appropriate language and behaviour.
- Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct

## **Behaviour that will not be tolerated**

The following list provides some examples of behaviours that are considered serious and unacceptable and will not be tolerated towards any member of the school community:

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches)
- Swearing, using offensive language (including racist / sexist comments) or speaking in aggressive/threatening tone or using aggressive hand gestures / exaggerated movements
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents – either in person or on the telephone. This includes but is not limited to pushing, hitting and spitting
- Threatening another member of the school community- physically or verbally
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms
- Use of physical punishment against your child while on school premises

- Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult – including physical intimidation such as standing very close
- Approaching another person's child in order to chastise / threaten / discipline them – please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention
- Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs)
- Showing disregard for school policies and procedures e.g. entering school classrooms without permission, making contact with a member of staff outside of school hours to discuss or investigate a concern
- Damaging or destroying school property

### **Persons Causing A Nuisance/Disturbance on School Premises**

It is an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996 for any person (including a parent) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist on removing the person concerned.

School premises are private property and parents have been granted permission by the school to be on school premises. This permission can be withdrawn and a parent banned from the school premises where there is evidence of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents.

School is not responsible for organising arrangements for children to be brought into school in the above circumstances. Parents will need to provide alternative arrangements for bringing children into school.

### **Abusive phone calls**

Calls will be terminated if a parent/carer shouts or is abusive over the telephone. Calls will also be terminated if a parent/carer speaks in an aggressive or intimidating tone over the telephone. The Head of School / Executive Head teacher, with approval of Governors, may consider communicating via email if deemed necessary.

### **Inappropriate use of Social Networking Sites**

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 Governing Body of St Anthony's Catholic Primary School consider the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interest of the children or the

whole school community. Under no circumstances will abuse via social media be tolerated. Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community (pupil, parents, extended family or staff), including via text, email or social media is unacceptable. Any concerns parents may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, a senior member of staff or the Chair of Governors, so that they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a pupil being educated at St Anthony's Catholic Primary School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate social network site via the 'report abuse' facility. All social networks sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site 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. Additionally, and perhaps more important is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by one child or parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entries. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying.

### **Breaching the code of conduct**

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, 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:

- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent into school to meet with a senior member of staff
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Academy'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 code of conduct rests with the Head of School / Executive Headteacher.

The Head of School / Executive Headteacher will consult the chair of governors before banning a parent from the school site.

The school reserves the right to take any necessary actions to ensure that members of the school community are not subjected to abuse.

Parents have the right to appeal by writing to the Chair of Governors, within 10 days of their permission to enter the school premises being withdrawn.

## **Responsibilities**

*It is the responsibility of the Head teacher and Governors to monitor and review this Parental Code of Conduct Policy.*

*Reviewed: January 2024*

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