

# St. Peter's Catholic School

## Code of Conduct Policy for Parents, Carers and Visitors

### Introduction

At St. Peter's Catholic School we strongly value the partnership that exists between school, parents, carers, external companies, agencies and institutions and the local community. We are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body who share the school's Catholic values. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves our parents, carers, teachers and the school community working together. As a partnership, our parents and carers 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 and carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

### Purpose and Scope

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 respect and understanding.

### Guidance

#### We expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the Catholic ethos and values 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 perception 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. Please avoid arriving at school unannounced, as we cannot guarantee that a member of staff will be available to see you. Please telephone or email the school to arrange an appointment.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour.
- Respect the privacy of staff and their right to a home and family life.

**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, an employee's office, office area or any other area of the school grounds including extra-curricular events and sports matches.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or student 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, factually incorrect and/or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the students, parents or staff, at the school, on Facebook or 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 teacher, Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned. The school's complaints policy can be found on the school website.
- The use of physical 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 to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property.
- Dogs (with the exception of guide dogs or registered work dogs with their handlers) 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, withdraw permission for the offending adult to enter the school grounds.

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

## **Appendix 1: Inappropriate use of Social Network Site**

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/students. The Governors of St. Peter's Catholic School consider the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any student, parent or carer is found to be posting libellous, defamatory or factually incorrect comments on Facebook, or other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site. All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report content or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that such comments are immediately removed by the student, parent or carer.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, there 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.