



Parent Code of Conduct

At St Theresa's Catholic Primary School, we believe that a positive partnership between parents and the school community is essential for the success and well-being of our students. This code of conduct sets out the expectations for parents and guardians to ensure a respectful and safe environment for everyone.

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)

Respect and Courtesy:

We expect parents and visitors to show respect and concern for others by:

- supporting the respectful ethos of our schools by setting a good example in their own speech and behaviour towards all members of their school community
- working together with teachers for the benefit of children. This includes approaching the school to resolve any issues of concern and to discuss and clarify specific events in order to bring about a positive solution. This can include seeking to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue
- correcting their own child's behaviour, especially where it could lead to conflict
- demonstrating in their own behaviour that all members of the school community should be treated with respect and understand that even if there is conflict due to a member of staff's oversight, parents must remain calm and respectful
- reinforcing the school's Behaviour Policy
- keeping our children safe by adhering to the school's request to park safely outside the school gates during morning and afternoon collections as well as showing respect and consideration for our neighbours
- treat all members of the school community (students, staff, other parents, and visitors) with respect and courtesy.

Unacceptable Conduct

- disruptive behaviour which interferes with the operation of a classroom, an office area or any other part of the school grounds (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches)
- using loud and/or offensive language or displaying temper towards members of staff or children
- threatening harm or the use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them and physical punishment against your own child on school premises (some actions may constitute an assault with legal consequences)
- damaging or destroying school property
- the filming or recording of any abusive, threatening or aggressive behaviour instigated towards a member of staff or child
- abusive, threatening, malicious, or inflammatory emails, phone calls or social network messages to anyone within the school community
- smoking, vaping and consumption of alcohol or other drugs or accessing the school site whilst intoxicated
- dogs being brought on to the school premises (other than guide dogs)

Social Media

Inappropriate use of social network 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 governors 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 class teacher, the head teacher or the chair of governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

Libellous or defamatory posts

In the event that any student or parent/carer of a child being educated at the school is found to be posting libellous or defamatory 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 contact or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/carer or student removes such comments immediately.

Cyber bullying

We take very seriously the issue of cyber bullying by one child or a parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying.

Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

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

What happens if someone ignores or breaks the code?

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 in the school. This will also include 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 cyberbullying.

In cases where evidence suggests that behaviour would be tantamount to libel or slander, then the school will refer the matter to the school'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, then the school 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, then the school will write to the parent/carer and ask them to stop the behaviour causing the concern and warn that if they do not, they may be banned from the school premises. If after this behaviour continues, the parent/carer will again be written to and informed that a ban is now in place.

Note:

A ban from the school can be introduced without having to go through all the steps offered above in more serious cases.

Site bans will normally be limited in the first instance. 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 Headteacher.

What happens if a parent has a concern about their child in relation to the school?

- Initially contact the class teacher
- If the concern remains contact the Headteacher, Mrs Johnson
- If still unresolved, they should make a complaint via the Complaints Policy procedure (see school website)

Conclusion

By adhering to this Parent Code of Conduct, we can work together to create a positive and supportive environment for our children's education and development. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to our school community.