



SS PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**'Learning Together, Achieving Together in Christ'**

# Parent Code of Conduct

## 2019-20

**Approved by: FGB**

**Date:** June 2019

**Written :** Spring 2019

**Last reviewed on:**

**Next review due by:** Spring 2021

## **Code of Conduct Statement**

As a Catholic School, at SS Peter and Paul we base our model of behaviour on the model shown to us through the life of Jesus Christ and our Catholic ethos permeates through all aspects of school life. We aim to work in partnerships with parents to enable children to be the best that they can be.

We are committed to creating a safe, structured environment for all members of the school community (that is children, parents, carers, staff and governors), where appropriate behaviour is at the heart of the school and also all decisions that are made.

All members of the school community are expected to maintain the highest standards of personal conduct, to accept responsibility for their behaviour and encourage others to do the same.

Behaviour will be addressed in a consistent way throughout the school and will be investigated in a non-emotional way.

### **Aim**

Our aim is for all stakeholders (members of the school community) to treat each other with respect. Parents approach staff and governors in an appropriate manner and work in partnership with school staff and governors, to resolve issues, to benefit the child. Staff reciprocate this respect in their response to parents.

### **Expectations**

All adults are to set a good example to children at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and the wider community.

No staff members, governors, parents or children are to be the victims of abusive behaviour or open to threats from other adults whilst on the school premises, or via social media.

### **Behaviour**

In order to have a safe and peaceful environment, conducive to our Catholic ethos and effective learning, the school will not tolerate parents, carers or any visitors to the school displaying inappropriate behaviours, towards any member of the school community.

Physical attacks and threatening behaviour, abusive or insulting language, verbal or written, to staff, governors, parents and carers, children and other users of the school premises, will not be tolerated and may result in withdrawal of permission to enter the school premises.

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour:

- using loud or offensive language, in person, on the telephone or via social media, including racist, sexist or homophobic language;
- sending abusive or threatening emails, texts, voicemail, phone messages or other written communications to anyone within the school community;
- inappropriate posting on social networking sites e.g Facebook, Twitter or WhatsApp groups; this will be deemed as bullying (see appendix);
- the use of physical or verbal aggression towards another adult or to a child. This includes physical

chastisement 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);
- defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school or on social networking sites; (see appendix)
- smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises (alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events);
- dogs being brought on to school premises (other than guide dogs);
- Use of mobile phones: mobile phones should not be used on school premises or on school trips, unless in the case of an emergency.

Please note all incidents will be logged with the Chair of Governors.

Unacceptable behaviour may result in the police being informed.

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

School premises are private property and parents have been granted permission from the school to enter the premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, the school may ban parents from entering the school ([see Department of Education guidance](#)).

It is also an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1997 for any person (including a parent) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist removing the person concerned.

Any parent who is asked to leave the school premises will have the right to appeal the decision in writing, to the Chair of Governors.

## **Terms**

**School community** children, parents, carers, staff and governors

**Wider community** visitors, members of the general public within Mitcham and beyond.

## **APPENDIX**

### **Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites**

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents or pupils. The Department for Education and the governors consider the use of social media websites in this way as unacceptable ([link to Department of Education guidance](#)). Any concerns you may have about the school or your child/children must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, where they will be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

### **Libellous or Defamatory posts**

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child or children at SS Peter and Paul school is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on social network sites such as Facebook, 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 pupil removes such comments immediately.

### **Cyber Bullying**

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

### **Raising Concerns**

Parents have a right to raise concerns about the education of their child, but they should do so in an appropriate manner that is in keeping with the school's Catholic ethos.

School staff should not be contacted or approached out of hours to discuss school issues, particularly whilst they are off school premises.

### **Paperwork/Passport Requests**

If requesting official paperwork from the office staff or the School leaders e.g letters for the Home Office, passport requests etc. it is reasonable to give a minimum of one week for this to be completed. A donation to the school is welcomed in these situations.