



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Parent Code of Conduct

RATIONALE: We believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which we work. Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the premises is contrary to the aims of the school.

AIMS: That all members of the school community treat each other with respect.

EXPECTATION:

- That adults 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.
- That no members of staff, parents or children are the victims of abusive behaviour or open to threats from other adults on the school premises.
- To communicate calmly, fairly and in a reasonable manner.
- Any parent who is asked to leave the school premises will have the right to appeal the decision by writing to the Chair of Governors.
- Please note all incidents will be logged.

Guidelines Types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable and will not be tolerated towards any member of the school community:

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

- Shouting, either in person or over the telephone
- Inappropriate posting on Social Networking sites See Appendix 1)
- Speaking in an aggressive/threatening tone
- Physically intimidating, eg standing very close
- The use of aggressive hand gestures/exaggerated movements
- Physical threats
- Shaking or holding a fist towards another person
- Swearing
- Pushing
- Hitting, eg slapping, punching or kicking
- Spitting
- Racist, sexist or homophobic comments
- Sending abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications to anyone within the school community.
- 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).
- Threatening behaviour.

What happens if you do not follow our school code of conduct?:

- Should **any** of the above occur on school premises the school may feel it is necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities and/or sadly, consider banning the offending adult from entering the school premises.
- 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 be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, school may ban parents from entering the school. 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. School is not responsible for organising arrangements for children in the above circumstances. Parents will need to provide alternative arrangements for bringing children into school, however we will try and help make reasonable adjustments ensuring that the community is safeguarded.

Policy written by: J Lewis
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APPENDIX 1:

Inappropriate use of Social Network Site Social media

The Department for Education/Government and Governors of St Patrick's Catholic Primary School considers the use of social media websites being used to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some case other parents or pupils, as unacceptable

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. (Please see complaints policy and procedures)

Libellous or Defamatory posts - In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/children at St Patrick'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 '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 very seriously the use of cyber bullying to publicly humiliate a member of our community by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying. The school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse on social networking and other sites.

Legally:

It is an offence to "send by means of a public electronic communications network a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character" (The Communications Act 2003)

A defamatory statement is one that "*tends to lower the claimant in the estimation of right-thinking members of society generally*" The statement must have caused (or be likely to cause) serious harm to the claimant's reputation (Defamation Act 2013)

Impact:

The most important thing for us all to remember is that these posts can have a detrimental affect on the well being of our staff and community. What may have started as a rant over a grievance can quickly 'snowball' into a much larger issue! We encourage you to arrange for a time to come and speak to the school if you have an issue or follow our complaints policy. We discourage our school community from using social media as a platform to vent frustrations.