

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School



Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors

Updated 28th June 2016

Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors

At Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community. As a partnership our parents will 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/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

We expect everybody to behave courteously to each other and set a good example to the children. Inevitably there are occasions where parents may be unhappy or upset about something that may have occurred in school, and want to discuss it.

In most cases, complainants are helpful, polite and patient, and they give us time to sort out whatever has happened so that everyone has been listened to and the problem is resolved. However, the behaviour of a minority of complainants can make investigating and resolving a complaint difficult, or they may behave in a way that is unacceptable or inappropriate.

We will never tolerate violence or abuse towards any member of staff. This may include behaviour or language (verbal, non-verbal or written) that may cause staff to feel afraid, threatened or abused; and it may include threats, personal verbal abuse, derogatory remarks and rudeness.

In these instances, parents will be asked to desist from the behaviour, and/or leave the premises. In instances where parents refuse to leave when asked and their behaviour is still causing distress, the police may be called.

The headteacher may, in certain circumstances, impose a ban, (in writing) on that person until they have had a meeting and taken responsibility for the impact of their behaviour. This is essential to protect staff and allow them to do their job, as well as protecting your children from witnessing inappropriate behaviour by adults.

Parents may also not approach any children in the school to investigate a problem, as this may result in you receiving a warning letter, a final warning or potentially even a ban from the site by the headteacher. Please let us know what facts you have, and we will thoroughly investigate any concerns you have and let you know the outcome. Parents may also not question staff about sanctions that may have been put in place by the headteacher, as this will be seen as intimidation or harassment of staff.

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 understanding.

Guidance

As well as following the guidance set out in our Home-School Agreement, we expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the Catholic ethos 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 version 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 you resolve any issues of concern.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour.

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.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, 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.
- Defamation of the school's or staff character on Facebook or other social sites.
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of their actions 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.
- Cycling on school premises.
- Dogs 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, even ban the offending adult from entering the school grounds.

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