

St Austin's Catholic Primary School



Parent Code of Conduct

Autumn (2) 2022

Policy agreed by the Full Governing Body of St Austin's Primary School:

On:15th December 2022..... **Signed:**..... *A Hay Davis*
(Chair of Governors)

To be reviewed:.....Autumn (1) 2024.....

"In our school, where everyone is special,
we will love and serve as Jesus taught"

"En nuestro colegio todos somos especiales.
Amaremos y serviremos como Jesús nos enseñó"

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Parent/Carer

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Introduction

St Austin's Catholic Primary School is committed to ensuring that all pupils, parents, staff and governors work together in a safe and caring environment guided by our Catholic ethos of respect and tolerance towards others, an ethos which values the contribution of all members of our community. Our governing body believes that excellence for our pupils can only be achieved when all members of our community work together for the good of the pupils.

The vast majority of our parents, carers and other visitors to our school are extremely supportive of our school, our teachers, other members of staff, our pupils, their parents and other visitors, and act in a reasonable way, ensuring that the school is a safe, orderly environment in which students can learn. Occasionally, however, a negative attitude is expressed in an aggressive, verbally abusive or physically abusive way towards these members of the school community which is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

The purpose of this policy is to remind all parents and carers about their expected conduct when they contact or visit us. This is so we can continue to educate and care for our pupils within an atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect.

Guidance

We expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect our school values and our Catholic ethos
- 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 their own child's behaviour, especially in public, where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behavior.
- Use the appropriate channels of communication when approaching the school regarding any issues of concern
- Be patient when asking for responses to queries, telephone calls or e mails

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot accept any of the following

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of the reception area, a classroom or any other area of the school grounds including sports matches
- shouting, either in person or over the telephone;
- 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, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Sending abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- Making defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff whether at the school, on Facebook or on any other social media sites
- Using 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
- Parking inconsiderately or dangerously especially on Riverbank Road and the surrounding area

- using intimidating, threatening, insulting or abusive language or behaviour;
- using aggressive or offensive hand gestures;
- shaking or holding a fist towards another;
- swearing;
- pushing, shoving or jostling;
- hitting, slapping, punching or kicking;
- spitting;
- any other behaviour likely to cause anybody witnessing it (especially our children) alarm, distress or to fear that violence may be used against them or others.

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

Please note:

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

PERMISSION TO ENTER AND BE ON THE SCHOOL'S PREMISES

School premises are private property and parents have 'implied permission' from the school to be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents/carers, school may ban parents/carers from entering school.

"Implied permission" to enter and be on the school's premises for reasons relating to their child means that parents/carers are welcome to come to the school to drop off and collect their children, subject to any restrictions that may apply to vehicle access to the site, to speak to teachers and other members of staff about their children, or for meetings, parents' evenings and social events. Parents/carers do not have a legal right to enter or be on the school's premises without a good reason. In education law, the term "parent" includes the natural or adoptive parents of a pupil, as well as a non-parent with care of a pupil and a non-parent with parental responsibility of a pupil. For the purposes of this policy only, the term "parent" will also include a non-parent who does not have care of or parental responsibility for a pupil, but who is involved in looking after a student on a regular basis (for example, a childminder, non-resident partner of a parent or relative who takes the pupil to or from school, is involved with the care of the student in some other way, or a person whose emergency contact number we have been provided with). Other visitors also have "implied permission" to enter and be on the school's premises if they have a reason, for example a courier or delivery person, or a member of the public attending the school's office to make enquiries about something. Members of the public without a good reason for entering or being on the school premises are trespassing.

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 in removing the person concerned.

Withdrawal of permission to be on the school premises

The school has the right to withdraw the "implied permission" for a parent or visitor to enter or be on the school's premises if their behaviour while they were previously on the school's premises was unacceptable. The withdrawal of the "implied permission" will be effective as soon as the parent or other visitor has been told that they must leave and are prohibited from returning, and will be confirmed in writing by recorded delivery if the home address is known. Once the "implied permission" has been withdrawn, the school will ask the police to remove the parent or visitor if they appear on the school's premises. If the parent or visitor causes a nuisance or disturbance while they are on the school's premises, they may also be prosecuted in the criminal courts under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996, be liable to pay a fine of up to £500.00 and have a criminal conviction recorded against them. Where a parent has had their "implied permission" to enter and be on the school's premises withdrawn, the school will, in appropriate cases, make alternative arrangements for the parent's children to be dropped off and collected from the school, and in relation to parents' evenings and other meetings.

Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites

We are aware that social media websites are sometimes used to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, their school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. The Governors of St Austin's Catholic Primary School consider that social media websites being used in this way is unacceptable and not in the best interests of our children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the appropriate member of staff so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child being educated at St Austin's Catholic Primary School is found to be posting libelous 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 parents/carers or pupil removes such comments immediately.

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

Where a child or their parent reports an incident claiming another child has used abusive, inappropriate or threatening language/communications against them via social network or gaming sites and that communication causes disruption in the school, then school will expect the parent/carer to support us ensuring that the offending behaviour is modified and dealt with. School appreciates that these activities take place away from school premises and outside of school time – but can have an impact on school time learning and behaviour. Such disruption causes anxiety and stress and we appreciate parent/carers working with school when this has a direct impact on learning and school life in general.

Misuse of photographs/video images

Photographs and video images of pupils and staff are defined as personal data under the data Protection Act 1998. Where a child or their parents/carers has reported that another child has taken an image of their child without consent, whether with the intent to distribute it via social media sites or not, then the parents/carers of the child holding/storing the image will be expected to work with school to delete and remove the image accordingly. Such activities can cause undue stress to children and their parents/carers and this policy is aimed to protect those rights. Please be aware that some children may even have orders prohibiting the use of their image in the public domain.

Parents/carers have the right of appeal by writing to the Chair of Governors within ten days of permission to enter the school premises being withdrawn.

Thank you for your support and co-operation in enabling us to work together in order to support our pupils.