

Approved: September 2024

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# SJBCA Parent Code of Conduct

ST JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC ACADEMY

St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

*'Proudly & Joyfully, we Love, Live & Learn as God's children'*



## Statement of intent

The schools of St John Bosco Catholic Academy strive to build a strong relationship with parents to help create a stimulating learning environment that continues from school to home. We believe this provides all pupils with the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability.

To create a welcoming and safe learning environment, the school implements a specifically designed set of rules regarding behaviour and conduct which parents are expected to act in accordance with.

All staff members have the right to work without fear of violence or abuse; therefore, physical attacks, threatening behaviour, and abusive or insulting language towards staff members, governors, visitors, pupils or other parents may result in individuals being removed from the premises.

This document outlines the manner in which parents are expected to act whilst on the school premises, as well as detailing the types of behaviour that will not be tolerated.

### 1 Legal framework

This document has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 2011
- Education Act 1996
- Children Act 2004
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education 2023'
- DfE (2018) 'Controlling access to school premises'

This document operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Keeping our schools safe from abuse, threats and violence Policy.

### 2 Expectations

Our school expects parents to:

- Act in accordance with this code of conduct at all times.
- Support and reflect the school's ethos and values through their behaviour.
- Set a good example to pupils through their behaviour and the way they interact with staff, pupils and other adults.
- Work together with staff members for the benefit of their child and to resolve any issues of concern.
- Treat all governors, staff members, pupils, other parents and any members of the school community with dignity and respect.

- Where appropriate, clarify their child's version of events with the school to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct their child's behaviour appropriately, particularly on the school grounds where it could otherwise lead to conflict or aggressive or unsafe behaviour.
- Respect the school's property and environment by keeping it clean and tidy.
- Dress in an appropriate manner when on the school premises and attending school events, and ensure their dress and appearance reflects that they are role models for pupils, e.g. parents may not wear nightwear when dropping-off or collecting pupils.

Parents are required to act in accordance with all relevant school policies and procedures at all times including, but not limited to, the following:

- Social Media Policy

Parents can request copies of all relevant policies and procedures from the school office.

### **3 Pick-ups and Drop Offs**

Parents that drive their children to and from school will be mindful and courteous of other road users, pedestrians and our local residents when arriving to school in the car.

Residents' drives should not be blocked under any circumstances, even during short periods of waiting where the car is in use. Vehicles should be driven in a calm manner which causes least disturbance to residents.

Engines should be turned off when a vehicle is stationary and not in traffic as vehicle exhaust emissions contribute significantly to air pollution and are particularly harmful to children.

All pupils will wear a seatbelt at all times while they are dropped off and picked up. Parents will ensure pupils disembark vehicles safely at the correct stop and cross roads with care.

Pupils should not be collected late - all pupils are expected to be collected at 3.15pm. If a parent is delayed in picking up their child for any reason it is the parent's responsibility to call an authorised adult to collect the pupil from school on their behalf.

Parents that are going to be late picking their child up from school and cannot arrange for an authorised adult to collect the pupil from school on their behalf should inform the school as soon as possible.

#### 4 Inappropriate behaviour

The school takes instances of inappropriate behaviour very seriously and will not tolerate any circumstances that may make pupils, staff members and other members of the school community feel threatened.

Parental behaviour that the school does not tolerate includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Using foul, abusive or offensive language
- Raising voices inappropriately at another individual
- Making racist comments
- Making sexual comments
- Using aggressive hand gestures, e.g. raising fists and fingers
- Discriminating against any member of the school community, including pupils, staff, governors and other parents
- Bullying, harassment or intimidation, including physical, verbal and sexual abuse offline and online
- Sending abusive, aggressive or threatening messages, emails or other communications to any member of the school community
- Trespassing on school property without prior permission or implied licence
- Causing intentional damage to school property
- Breaching the school's security procedures
- Using physical violence on the school premises or on a member of the school community, e.g. hitting, slapping, punching, kicking and pushing
- Physically intimidating an individual
- Partaking in unnecessary physical contact with an individual
- Psychologically harassing any member of the school community, including displaying vexatious behaviour which is humiliating for the individual and is damaging to their self-esteem
- Displaying disruptive or other inappropriate behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's operations or activities
- Approaching another parent or pupil to discuss or reprimand them because of an issue between pupils
- Threatening any member of the school community in any way
- Arriving on the school premises partially clothed
- Smoking on the school premises
- Taking illegal or harmful drugs while on the school premises
- Drinking alcohol on the school premises, unless it has been authorised and supplied by the school at a special event
- Taking photographs or videos on the school premises without permission from the school
- Driving unsafely within the vicinity of the school

- Writing or posting abusive, offensive or defamatory comments about an individual or the school, including on social media

## **5 Inappropriate use of Social Media and Online Messaging**

We understand the benefits of using social media to keep up to date with school news and share information between other parents; however, if misused, the school community can be negatively affected, this can include individual pupils, groups or classes of pupils or indeed the reputation of the school.

Our school expects parents to behave in a civilised nature online and will not tolerate any of the following online behaviour:

- Posting defamatory content about parents, pupils, the school or its employees
- Complaining about the school's values and methods on social media
- Posting content containing confidential information regarding the school or any members of its community, e.g. a complaint outcome
- Contacting school employees through social media, including requesting to 'follow' or 'friend' them, or sending them private messages
- Creating or joining private groups or chats that victimise or harass a member of staff, a pupil or groups of pupils or the school in general
- Posting images of any staff members or pupils without their prior consent

Parents' social media usage will be in accordance with the school's Social Media Policy. The school retains the right to request that any damaging material is removed from social media websites.

If parents wish to raise a complaint, the school has a Complaints Policy in place which is accessible on the school website.

Breaches of this code of conduct will be taken seriously by the school and, in the event of illegal, defamatory, or discriminatory content, breaches could lead to prosecution. Parents are instructed not to post anonymously or under an alias to evade the guidance given in this code of conduct.

The school expects parents to use messaging apps, such as WhatsApp, for purposes beneficial to themselves and the school, however the school will not tolerate any of the following behaviour;

- Sending abusive messages to fellow parents
- Sending abusive messages about members of staff, parents, pupils or the school
- Sharing confidential or sensitive information about members of staff, parents, pupils or the school
- Bringing the school or its staff into disrepute
- Communicating on behalf of the school

Should any problems arise from contact over messaging apps, the school will act quickly by contacting parents directly, to stop any issues continuing. The school can request a meeting with parents if any misconduct. The Principal / Head of School can request that 'group chats' are closed down should any problems continue between parents or parental bodies.

## **6 Photography and Images**

Parents **may** be permitted to take photos of their children at certain school events; however, parents are only able to take photos of their own children, and should only share photos of their own children on social media.

Parents must not take photos of other children, staff members or volunteers, nor post them on social media without the consent of those within the images or, where applicable, their parents.

Where the school has stated that for safeguarding purposes, photographs are not permitted, parents must not act against this request as doing so could put others at risk.

Where the school has permitted taking photographs, parents should ensure that they are considerate of other people around them and not obstruct other parents from seeing/enjoying the event.

During events outside of school, such as dropping children off at the school gate, or whilst visiting the school, parents must not take photos of any members of the school community, nor share these photos on social media.

## **7 Managing inappropriate behaviour**

If a parent is behaving inappropriately, a report will be made to the Principal / Head of School or the most senior member of staff available in their absence, who will decide on the most appropriate course of action.

Parents will raise concerns regarding another parent's behaviour or conduct directly with their child's class teacher or the Principal / Head of School and will not approach the parent themselves.

Instances of parents displaying inappropriate behaviour will be managed in a variety of ways, depending on the situation.

When a parent has behaved inappropriately, they will be invited to a meeting by the Principal / Head of School to discuss their behaviour and to attempt to resolve the issue. Where this initial meeting is not sufficient to resolve the issue, the Principal / Head of School, in collaboration with other staff and relevant agencies, will consider what further action may be required. This action, depending on the situation, could include the following:

- Barring the parent from the school premises
- Contacting the police
- Seeking legal redress through the courts
- Restricting the parent's channels of communication to the school, e.g. no longer allowing the parent to send emails to a staff member directly
- Reporting content the parent has posted online to the website's admin
- Referring the case to children's social care, where the behaviour indicates that the parent poses a risk to children

Any child protection and safeguarding concerns will be addressed in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The school reserves the right to escort anyone off the premises who is displaying aggressive or disruptive behaviour. The police may be contacted to provide advice on managing an incident or to assist in the removal of an individual from the premises, where necessary. The police will be contacted where a parent is being violent or has committed assault, or where the event has caused harm to an individual.

If a parent has been previously barred from the premises, or has exceeded their implied access to the premises and is causing a disturbance, the police will be contacted to remove the individual from the premises.

If concerns are raised in relation to a parent's appearance or dress, personal factors will be taken into consideration, on a case-by-case basis, when addressing the concern.

If a parent persistently displays unacceptable and inappropriate behaviour, this may result in them being barred from the school premises, in line with the [Barring from the school premises](#) section of this policy.

## **8 Barring from the school premises**

The school has the right to bar a parent from the premises to keep the school community safe. If a parent is displaying inappropriate or concerning behaviour, they will be asked to leave the school premises. Behaviour that could result in a parent being asked to leave the premises includes aggressive, abusive or insulting behaviour or language that is a risk to staff or pupils, or behaviour that is making staff or pupils feel threatened.

If a parent persistently or consistently behaves inappropriately on the school site, or there is a one-off incident of extremely inappropriate behaviour, the school reserves the right to bar this individual from the school site in line with the Keeping our schools safe from abuse, threats and violence Policy.

The school will either:

- Bar the parent temporarily, until the parent has had the opportunity to formally present their side.
- Inform the parent that they intend to bar them and invite them to present their side.

The Principal / Head of School will send a letter to the parent, informing them of the following information:

- Why they have been temporarily barred or face a bar
- The nature of the bar, i.e. if they are temporarily barred pending their representation or if they must present their side before the decision to bar can be made
- That they have the right to formally express their views on the decision to bar in writing to the chair of governors within **5** working days

The Principal / Head of School decision to bar the parent will be reviewed by the chair of governors.

The chair of governors will take account of any representations made by the parent and decide whether to confirm or lift the bar. The parent will be notified in writing of the decision to uphold or lift the bar.

If the decision is confirmed, the parent will be notified in writing, explaining:

- How long the bar will be in place.
- When the decision will be reviewed.

Decisions to bar will be reviewed at the end of the agreed timescale, in line with the process outlined above. Following a review, the bar may be lifted or, if there are grounds for continued concern regarding the parent's conduct, it may be extended.

Once the appeal process has been completed, parents that remain barred may be able to apply to the Civil Courts. If a parent wishes to exercise this option, they will be advised to seek independent legal advice.

## **9 Monitoring and review**

This document will be reviewed on an **annual** basis by the Local Governing Board and any changes made will be communicated to all parents and staff at the school. All parents will be provided with a copy of this code of conduct upon their child's attendance at the school, and are required to familiarise themselves with the procedures and guidelines outlined.



## Parent Code of Conduct Agreement

**[Distribute this document to parents with the Parent Code of Conduct to confirm that they have read and understood the terms of the document.]**

I \_\_\_\_\_ (name), parent of \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of child), declare that I have received, read and understood the terms and conditions of this code of conduct.

I understand my obligations under this code of conduct and agree to comply fully with them. I will ensure that my conduct does not breach this code in any way, including not:

- Being abusive or threatening to any member of the school community.
- Dressing in an inappropriate manner.
- Behaving inappropriately or aggressively in any way.
- Being discriminatory towards any member of the school community.
- Trespassing on the school property.
- Smoking, drinking alcohol or taking any illegal or harmful substances on the school premises.
- Sending inappropriate, abusive or aggressive messages to school staff.
- Requesting to 'follow' or 'friend' school staff on social media.
- Complaining about the school on social media.

Please return this slip to the school office as soon as possible.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_