



## Parent/Carer Code of Conduct

### **Mission Statement:**

'Achieving Excellence Together'. Our purpose is to develop learning in a Christian, caring environment and to promote the Catholic faith.

"Inspiring independent learners with Jesus by our side".

### **Our core values:**

Pride: Respect: Responsibility: Challenge: Curiosity

### **Code of conduct:**

At St. Bede's Catholic Primary School we value our strong relationship with parents and carers. Together this helps us achieve the very best for the children in a mutually supportive partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community.

As a partnership, our parents/carers understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip their children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continually welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

To truly create the best outcomes for children requires the relationship between home and school to be based on the principles of care, integrity, trust and mutual respect. The maintenance of this relationship is important to ensure that a child or children are safe (please read our safeguarding policy) and not open to undue distress and anxiety.

### **Visitor and Parental/Carers Behaviour Policy:**

At St. Bede's Catholic Primary School, we believe that all staff, visitors, parents/carers and children are entitled to a happy, safe, protective and exciting environment in which to learn and work. Therefore, behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the premises is contrary to the aims of the school and **will not**, under any circumstances, be tolerated.

### **Aims:**

- That all members of the school community (including parents/carers and visitors) treat each other with respect and respect the caring ethos and values of the school
- All adults within the community of St. Bede's Catholic Primary School are positive role models
- That both teachers and parents/carers work together for the benefit of their children
- Approaching school staff for help to resolve an issue is done in an appropriate manner
- All members of the school community are treated with respect using appropriate language and behaviour.

### **Role Models:**

Children learn a lot through imitation. In their early years, children will imitate their parents and other family members. It is therefore really important to model positive behaviour, how you speak and the words you say and demonstrate how to treat other human beings with respect. If parents or other adults in school behave badly, then children could think that it is alright to do the same.

### **Expectation:**

- That adults set a good example to **all** children at all times, modelling how to get along with all members of the school and the wider community.
- That no staff, parents/carers or children are victimised, subjected to abusive behaviour or open to threats from other adults on or around the school premises (including the car park and school drive).
- That physical attacks, threatening behaviour, abusive or insulting language (verbal or written), towards staff, governors, parents, carers, children and other users of the school premises will not be tolerated under any circumstances and will result in swift and decisive action being taken.

### **Guidelines:**

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school will not tolerate parents/carers or visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the schools operation or activities anywhere on the school premises
- Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper
- Threatening, in any way, a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil

- Damaging or destroying school property
- Sending abusive or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications to anyone within the school community
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social sites (See Appendix 1)
- The use of physical or verbal 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 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, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises (alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events)

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour. Please note that the Chair of Governors will be fully informed of all incidents. Unacceptable behaviour may also result in the local authority and police being informed of the incident where relevant.

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.

***The school reserves the right to withdraw permission for parents and visitors to be on or around the school premises (including the car park, school drive etc.) if it is considered that the safety and well-being of the school community is at risk.***

### **Persons Causing Nuisance / Disturbance on School Premises Section 547 of the Education Act 1996**

School premises are private property and parents have been granted permission from St. Bede's Catholic Primary School to be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, the school may ban parents/carers or visitors from entering school.

In imposing a ban the following steps will be taken:

1. The parent/carer or visitor will be informed, in writing, that she/he/they are banned from the premises, subject to review, and what will happen if the ban is breached, e.g. that police involvement or an injunction application may follow.
2. Where an assault has led to a ban, a statement indicating that the matter has been reported to the **local authority** and the **police** will be included.
3. The Chair of Governors and Local Authority will be informed of the ban.
4. Where appropriate, arrangements for pupils being delivered to, and collected from the school gate will be clarified.

St. Bede's Catholic Primary School is **not** responsible for organising arrangements for

children in the above circumstances. Parents/carers will need to provide alternative arrangements for bringing children into school.

It is also an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996 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.**

### **Stalking and Harassment**

In the **Protection from Harassment Act 1997** it states that:

‘A person must not pursue a course of conduct which amounts to harassment of another and which he knows or ought to know amounts to the harassment of the other.’

Harassment is considered to be unwelcome comments (written or spoken) or conduct which:

- Violates an individual’s dignity; and/or
- Creates an intimidating hostile, degrading humiliating or offensive environment

Harassment includes bullying in the workplace, anti-social behaviour, violence, threats, sending unwanted gifts, abuse and damage to property. It can also involve verbal abuse and name calling, offensive graffiti or post and can be received via text message, e-mails or social networking sites (cyber-bullying). Harassment is deemed to have taken place if there are at least two incidents initiated by the same person or group of people.

In the **Equality Act 2010** it states that sexual harassment is unlawful, the Act says it’s sexual harassment if the unwanted behaviour:

- Violates your dignity
- Creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment (this includes the digital environment, online)

Some examples would include:

- Sexual comments, jokes and gestures
- Unwanted sexual communications, like emails, texts, DMs.

Thank you for abiding by this policy in our school. Together we create a positive and uplifting environment not only for the children but also for all who work and visit our school.

Agreed and adopted by governors: Summer 2023

## Appendix One

### Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

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/Government and Governors of St. Bede's Catholic Primary School considers the use of social media websites being used in this way 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.

**Libelous or Defamatory posts** - In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/children at St. Bede'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 parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

**Cyber Bullying** – we take very seriously the use of cyber bullying 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.

The school will also consider its **legal options** to deal with any such misuse on social networking and other sites.