

St Hilary School Parents / Guardian Code of Conduct

At St Hilary School, we are extremely fortunate and so proud to have such a supportive and friendly parent body, who recognise that educating children effectively is a process that involves partnership between families, staff and the wider school community.

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

The purpose of this document is to provide a reminder to all parents, guardians and visitors to our school about our expected conduct, providing the clarity required to enable the school to flourish, progress and achieve in a positive atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Expectations:

As well as following our **Home-School Agreement**, we expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect and model the caring ethos of our school whenever on school premises or when communicating directly with the school.
- Understand that school staff and parents need to work together for the benefit of all
- Demonstrate that all members of the school community should be treated with tolerance and respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech, conduct and behaviour.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view, in order to bring about a reasoned and logical solution to any issue.
- Correct their own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead inappropriate or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues or concern.
 - The first point of call is always your child's class teacher as they are best placed and informed to provide assist you.
 - If your concern is regarding Special Educational Needs (SEND) or is linked in any way to SEND, please contact Michelle Brant:
 - If your concern is regarding teaching and learning please contact Ashley Larter
 - Beyond this please feel free to contact the school office or myself directly.

To support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate the following from parents, guardians and visitors:

- Disturbing school staff and trying to speak to them whilst they are supervising children
- Entering the school during the school day anywhere other than via the school reception
- 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 including team matches.
- Using loud / aggressive / or offensive language (swearing, cursing, using profane language) or displaying temper.
- In any way threatening harm to a member of school staff, Governors, visitors, fellow parents / Guardians or pupils
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Abusive, persistent or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils / parents / guardians /staff, at the school, on Facebook or other social media sites. (see below). Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Head teacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child; this includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Making recordings of any variety (videoing, photographing, audio recording) on the school site – protecting basic safeguarding of children and preventing intimidation and threatening behaviour towards others.
- Approaching someone else’s child to discuss the actions of this child towards their own child.
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs (or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs) whilst on school property.

Should **any** of the above occur on St Hilary premises the school will consider which appropriate action to take – considering the **Managing Aggressive behaviour from parents and visitors to our school – policy** and whether is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities.

Inappropriate use of social media

While Social media websites are often used extremely positively by the whole school community, there is increased evidence of social media being used inappropriately:

- fuelling campaigns and complaints against schools,
- sharing inappropriate information, e.g. naming children involved in incidences,
- sharing confidential information regarding an aspect of school life,
- making allegations or accusations
- sharing false news.

St Hilary School considers the use of any social media websites or Apps in this way as unacceptable - ***it is not in the best interests of the children or school community***. We recognise that there will be instances when concerns need to be raised with the school, but where this is the case, these must be made through the appropriate channels eg: speaking to the class teacher, contacting the leadership team or the Headteacher. This is an essential requirement if we are to ensure any such concerns are dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

If any pupil or parent / guardian of a child being educated in the St Hilary School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites or apps, 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 / guardian or pupil remove such comments immediately.

In serious cases, the school would be forced to consider its legal options to deal with misuse of social networking and other sites.

In addition to this, the school will take the issue of cyber bullying very seriously – specifically, social media use by a child or a parent / guardian to publicly humiliate, upset or degrade another member of the school community.

We are proud to say that all the above incidents are extremely rare. However, we feel this code of conduct represents a fair and reasonable expectation of adults accessing the school and appropriate, proportionate reassurance for staff and all the school community who continue to access the school so positively.

We trust that our amazing school community and families will assist fully with the implementation of this code of conduct and ask that families make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of its contents.

Thank you for your continuing support and positivity.