



## **Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and Visitors**

St. Mary's is a friendly, supportive school.

We believe that our relationship with parents and carers is vital in ensuring that our school continues to be a place where everyone feels safe and welcome.

Our code of conduct is a reminder to parents and visitors about our expectations when on our school site.

We expect members of our school community to be treated with respect and never made to feel threatened or concerned about their safety.

In return we will always aim to treat you with respect, to listen carefully to your concerns and work with you to resolve any issues fairly and quickly.

To help us to do this we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community.

This includes staff through their code of conduct and pupils through our behaviour policy.

This code of conduct aims to help the school work together with parents by setting guidelines on acceptable behaviour. The term "parents" refers to anyone with parental responsibility for a pupil or anyone caring for a child i.e. grandparents or childminders.

We are confident that all parents will work in partnership with us.

It is important to be clear that certain behaviours will not be tolerated. These include:-

- Displaying a temper or shouting at members of staff, teaching and non-teaching.
- Swearing or using offensive language.
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community via text, email or social media.
- Threatening, or threatening to disrupt, school operations.
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, the staff or any member of its community, on social media.
- Any physical, aggressive behaviour, verbally or written, towards another child or adult.

### **Breaching the code of conduct:**

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the person about the incident. Depending on the nature of the incident the school may then:-

- Discuss the situation with the parent.
- Invite the parent into school to meet with a senior member of staff or the headteacher.
- Send a warning letter to the parent.
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour).
- Seek advice from the Local Authority's legal team regarding further action if required.
- Ban the parent from the school site.

The aim of the school is always to find a peaceful and acceptable solution to all issues and disagreements, and to respond to an incident in a proportional way.

The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the headteacher who will always consult with the chair of governors before banning a parent from the school site.