

Parent/Carer Code of Conduct

Our Lady's Catholic College



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PARENT/CARER CODE OF CONDUCT

1 Introduction

At Our Lady's, we believe that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents/carers, class teachers, support staff and the school community. We have always worked very hard to establish good communication with parents and believe that our success is due in no small part to the strong relationships we enjoy with our parents and carers. This partnership however, must be based on mutual respect.

In a very small minority of cases, however, we can experience incidences of poor behaviour by parents/carers. The aim of this policy is therefore to clarify what we expect of our parents/carers in terms of their relationship with us and what you can expect in terms of relationships with school. It also outlines what actions we may take when we encounter unacceptable behaviours.

2 Aims of this policy

- a) To outline Our Lady's Catholic College's expectations of how it will work together with parents/carers and the behaviours parents/carers are expected to meet;
- b) To outline the action that Our Lady's Catholic College will take if the conduct of parents/carers does not meet its expectations; and
- c) To support the mission, values and vision of Our Lady's Catholic College

3 Expectations of parents/carers

In addition to following the guidance set out in our Home-School Agreement we encourage parents/carers to:

- a) always respect the ethos and values of Our Lady's Catholic College
- b) always let Our Lady's Catholic College know if there are any concerns or issues that may be affecting a pupil's learning, behaviour or ability to do their homework, so that any issues can be resolved quickly. In such circumstances, contact should be made via Synergy.
- c) understand that both teachers and parents/carers need to work positively together for the benefit of their children;
- d) understand that all members of the Our Lady's Catholic College community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour;
- e) correct their child's actions, especially where it could lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour; and

- f) follow the process outlined in the Our Lady's Catholic College Complaints Policy if they are looking to make a complaint against the school.

4. Expectations of the Staff of Our Lady's Catholic College

- a) always respect the ethos and values of Our Lady's Catholic College
- b) understand that both teachers and parents/carers need to work positively together for the benefit of their children;
- c) understand that all members of the Our Lady's Catholic College community, including parents and carers, should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour;
- d) respond to any emails or messages left by parents/carers within 48 hours.

5. Unacceptable behaviour

In order to support a peaceful and safe environment within Our Lady's Catholic College, the following behaviours / actions will not be tolerated by parents/carers:

- a) using offensive or profane language, swearing, cursing or displaying temper anywhere on Academy premises or during a phone call;
- b) cause or permit a nuisance on the College's premises in contravention of s.547 Education 1996;
- c) making disparaging, libellous or slanderous comments about a member of staff at a Our Lady's Catholic College (including on social media sites). Any concerns a parent/carer may have about Our Lady's Catholic College must be made through the appropriate channels ie speaking to the pastoral staff, Headteacher or Chair of the Governing Body;
- d) sending abusive or threatening messages via email, text, voicemail etc;
- e) presenting disruptive behaviour which interferes, or threatens to interfere, with the operation of Our Lady's Catholic College;
- f) threatening to inflict harm to a member of staff, governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer, or pupil at Our Lady's Catholic College irrespective of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence;
- g) approaching someone else's child in order to chastise them because of the actions of that child towards the parent/carer's own child;
- h) using physical aggression towards another adult or child, including physical punishment against a parent/carer's own child on Our Lady's Catholic College premises;
- i) undertaking any forms of harassment against any member of the staff at Our Lady's Catholic College (this can be evidenced through repeated instances of any of the above);
- j) damaging or destroying property belonging to Our Lady's Catholic College;

- k) smoking, taking illegal drugs or consuming alcohol on Our Lady's Catholic College's premises or bringing dogs, other than assistance dogs, on to school premises.

6 Dealing with unacceptable behaviour

Should any of the behaviours / actions in clause 4 above take place, Our Lady's Catholic College may feel it necessary to apply restrictions to the offending adult's contact with the school. Any such restrictions will be tailored to deal with the individual circumstances of the unacceptable conduct and may include one or more of the following:

- a) putting in place a communication strategy to limit the point of contact and the frequency of the times that communications may be sent/made or reviewed;
- b) banning the offending adult from making contact with Our Lady's Catholic College by telephone except through a third party e.g. a friend or relative acting on their behalf;
- c) banning the offending adult from sending emails to individual and/or all Our Lady's Catholic College employees or Governors and insisting they only correspond by letter;
- d) banning the offending adult from entering the Our Lady's Catholic College premises;
- e) banning the offending adult from accessing any school building except by appointment;
- f) requiring contact to take place with one named member of staff only;
- g) restricting telephone calls to specified days / times / duration; and/or
- h) requiring any personal contact to take place in the presence of an appropriate witness.

When the decision is taken to apply any of the above restrictions or conditions, the Headteacher of Our Lady's Catholic College will contact parents/carers in writing to explain:

- Why the decision has been taken;
- What action is being taken; and
- The duration of that action.

Our Lady's Catholic College fully reserves the right, were it feels it necessary, to report the matters to the police or other appropriate authorities. It may also consider taking legal action. In such cases, Our Lady's Catholic College may not give the complainant prior warning of its actions.

7 Inappropriate use of Social Media Site

Social media websites are unfortunately being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents / pupils. Parents/pupils are reminded that the law prohibits statements being made which are malicious, have the intention to cause harm or harass another. False statements published about individuals may also amount to defamation and subject to civil action.

Our Lady's Catholic College considers the use of social media websites in this way to be unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole College community. Our Lady's Catholic College therefore encourages parents/carers to raise any concerns through the appropriate channels so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carers of a pupil is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social media sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report or 'abuse' section of that social network site. Parents/carers are reminded that all social media sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the sites and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity, which breaches these rules. Our Lady's Catholic College will also expect that any parent/carers or pupil remove such comments immediately and in serious cases, will consider its legal options with any such misuse of social networking and other sites.

Finally, Our Lady's Catholic College is committed to tackling the issue of cyberbullying and therefore will take appropriate action against pupils or pupils/carers should inappropriate social media posts be used to publicly humiliate another pupil or parent/carers at the college.

8 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 the school to be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, school may ban parents from entering 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.

School is not responsible for organising arrangements for children in the above circumstances. Parents will need to provide alternative arrangements for bringing children into school.