

Code of Conduct

Parents & Guardians



Sacred Heart Primary School
Dundrum

(Updated 2016)

Introduction

At Sacred Heart Primary School we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. We believe that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community. As a partnership, our parents will understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

We believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to work. Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the premises is contrary to the aims of the school.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about the expected conduct. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Guidance

We expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect our school values and our caring ethos.
- Ensure the School's Uniform Policy is adhered to. This is a huge part of the identity of our school within our community and instils a sense of belonging, equality, pride and respect within our pupils.
- Be appropriately dressed on the school site- no pyjamas please.
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children.
- Demonstrate that **all** members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern.

- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour
- As stated in the Safeguarding Policy, parents must inform the school if one parent is not allowed to collect their child because of a **Court Order**. Parents living apart, separated or divorced **retain equal responsibility** for their child and have the same rights to information and contact unless a **Court Order** is in place. A copy of the Court Order must be provided to the school.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following:

- 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/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carers or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Abusive 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/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social sites. Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Principal or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.(appendix 1)
- The use of physical 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 and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property.
- Dogs being brought on to school premises.

Unacceptable behaviour may result in the Police being informed.

The school reserves the right to take any necessary actions to ensure that members of the school community are not subjected to abuse.

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 1997 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.

Parents have the right of appeal by writing to the Chair of Governors within ten days of permission to enter the school premises being withdrawn.

Appendix 1

Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, The Principal, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. The Governors of Sacred Heart Primary School considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Principal or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated at Sacred Heart Primary School is found to be posting libellous 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.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly is the issue of cyber bullying and the use 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.

This policy will be updated annually.