

# Wargrave C of E Primary School



## Parent Code of Conduct Policy

At Wargrave C of E Primary School we are very fortunate to have supportive and friendly parents. Our parents recognise 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.

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 respect and understanding.

### Guidance

**As well as following the guidance set out in our Home-School Agreement, we expect parents, carers and visitors to:**

- ☉ Respect the Christian caring ethos of our school
- ☉ 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.

**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/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- ❌ Damaging or destroying school property.
- ❌ Intimidating, abusive or threatening e-mails, text/voicemail, phone messages or other written communication that makes unrealistic demands.
- ❌ Speaking to staff, pupils or other parents in an aggressive, intimidating and patronising manner.
- ❌ Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on social media sites. (See Appendix 1 – St Helens Social Media Code of Conduct for Parents). Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher 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.
- ❌ 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.

Should **any** of the above behaviour occur on school premises the school may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and if necessary, even exclude the offending adult from entering the school grounds.

We trust that parents and carers will assist our school with the implementation of this policy and we thank you for your continuing support of the school.

## Appendix 1

### St Helens Collective Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and Visitors: Use of Social Media

Over recent years social media tools have become an essential feature of modern life, providing opportunities for organisations (both public and private sector) and citizens to engage and communicate. A key feature of many social media tools is their unparalleled ability to broadcast and receive information quickly and link to a whole network of people in a matter of seconds. It is also the case that material broadcast via Facebook and Twitter can linger on in the digital world almost indefinitely often reaching a wider audience than the author had originally intended.

As a public body and regulated setting, responsible for the care and education of children, Wargrave C of E Primary School is committed to the responsible and appropriate use of social media. Its own use of social media is governed by its adoption of **St Helens Council Social Media Policy** (March 2011) itself informed by the **Cabinet Office: Participation Online Guidance for Civil Servants** (June 2008)

#### Social Media tools include, but are not limited to:

- Blogs\Microblogging
- Social Networking
- Collaboration Networking Media
- Social Bookmarking
- Photo and Video sharing
- RSS Aggregation Services

This guidance forms part of Wargrave's Code of Conduct for parents, carers and visitors and seeks to extend those principles to the digital world. It is not intended to stifle legitimate debate, discussion or interfere with private use of social media tools. It aims to:

- ✓ Clarify expectations about the use of social media tools by parents, carers or visitors as it relates to Wargrave C of E Primary School.
- ✓ Outline the steps Wargrave C of E Primary School will take if it considers social media content to be offensive, inappropriate, inaccurate or otherwise unacceptable.
- ✓ Protect the reputation of Wargrave C of E Primary School and ensure the social media use supports its educational, spiritual and pastoral ethos.
- ✓ Support the use of existing school policies and procedures to resolve issues of concern.

As part of its code of conduct for parents, carers and visitors Wargrave C of E Primary School expects the following standards to apply in the use of social media tools:

- ✓ Foul, abusive, discriminatory or threatening material about the school, its staff or pupils will not be tolerated. Parents\carers posting such material will be contacted by the school for its immediate removal. Whenever necessary the school shall seek legal advice on any further action that might be necessary.
- ✓ If parents\carers become aware of offensive/abusive or factually inaccurate postings about Wargrave C of E Primary School, it is requested that these are brought to the attention of the headteacher or member of school staff at the earliest opportunity.

- ✓ Wargrave C of E Primary School has policies and procedures for a wide range of issues including bullying, attendance, additional needs and complaints. As such media tools are not an appropriate vehicle for progressing such matters. Schools will not engage with parents\carers via this route but will direct parents\carers to the appropriate procedure.
- ✓ When factually incorrect information is posted about Wargrave C of E Primary School via social media, the author(s) will be contacted by the school for its removal\correction.
- ✓ Wargrave C of E Primary School has a safeguarding duty to all of its pupils and will take appropriate action if it considers social media contents to compromise this. This can include the identification of child through social media discussion and the use of visual material within content.

We would expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.