

HOME AND SCHOOL WORKING TOGETHER

Our Special Relationship with Parents

Introduction

Many schools in Wales have shared concerns about a number of incidents of threats or violence against staff and even pupils, including examples of nastiness voiced through social media.

So we want to bring it to the attention of our Catholic school, to parents, staff, and the whole school community, and to set this as a reminder to you about the purpose and aims of a Catholic school.

In Catholic education we hold particular values and beliefs about how we live, work together, resolve problems; how we work for justice and truth, how we forgive and make things right, and how we build a community in which God is recognised.

The Catholic school's relationship with the parents

Our relationship with you the parents is held in special regard, for you are the primary educators of your children. We follow the guidance of the Church:

¹'Since parents have given children life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognised as the primary and principal educators.'

As governors and staff we aim to provide a school with the highest standards of learning, where there is mutual respect and an everyday experience of prayer and Christian values. This is made possible through shared hard work, faith, and commitment.

As parents, it is your commitment that enables us to give the children a distinctive education and to set it in a loving environment for your child.

²'As parents you have an important role in supporting the ethos of the school, should you send your children to a Catholic establishment.'

³

In turn, we support you as parents, we encourage you in the huge task of building a happy home and atmosphere where children can learn and grow. We ask all our families to be deliberate about the values and outlook on life you encourage, the experience of Christian faith you make possible, and the attention you give to God's blessings each day. As your child's most important educator, we ask you to teach your child best by your own example of responsibility and respect. As a Catholic school we support you fully in that task through the work of the school and seek always to provide the best learning opportunities for your child.

¹ (Gravissimum Educationis 3)

² Canon 796 #2

³ (The Catholic School 1973)

As a parent, please try to:

- Ensure that you pray as a family and attend Church.
- Bring your child to school prepared for the day.
- Follow the school's guidance and deadlines, and expect your child to do the same.
- Monitor and guide your child's telephone, computer, and television use, as well as movies and magazines your child views or sees.
- Try not to tolerate vulgar, sarcastic, or catty language from your child, or bullying, violent, or aggressive speech or behaviour that demeans. Set good example in your own speech and behaviour.

If there is a problem please contact the school by going through the proper channels:

- Speak to the teacher or adult in charge.
- Show respect for the staff and adults in front of your child even if there is a problem.
- Don't add to gossip that could harm someone.
- Speak respectfully and with kindness and courtesy to other parents in front of students, especially when there is a disagreement.
- Build a bridge of acceptance and understanding and expect your child to do the same, among the different cultures represented by the school.

Parents' Code of Conduct to address rare incidents and risks

Please help to keep the school as a place of welcome and a calm environment. We ask all parents, guardians, carers and visitors whilst on school premises to support the ethos of the school fairly and politely. We thank you for making this the norm in the school, but we also want to list below some exceptional things that must not happen in the school.

On behalf of everyone in the school, for our common good, please know that we cannot accept any of the following:

- Disruption that interferes with the work inside or outside, or in the grounds of the school;
- Offensive language, swearing, cursing, profanities or anti-social behaviour;
- Threats made to hurt or harm a member of staff, governor, pupil, parent or visitor, regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence;
- Physical violence against any other person on school premises;
- Damage or destroying of school property or threats to do so;
- Abusive or threatening e-mails, text/voicemail/phone messages or other written and/or electronic communication;
- Defamatory, offensive comments regarding the school or its pupils/parents/staff at the school on Facebook or other social network sites. (See Appendix 1 below)
- Physical aggression towards another adult or child, including physical punishment against your own child on school premises;
- Approaching another parent/guardian/carer's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child toward your own child. (This could have legal consequences)
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs, or in possession of, whilst on school property.

Appendix 1

Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Head teachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. The Governors of our schools consider the use of social media websites in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community.

If a pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in our schools is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on any social network sites, we are bound to report it under 'report abuse' section of the network site. A parent or pupil would be expected to remove 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.

Cyber bullying by one child or a parent to publicly humiliate another would be treated and dealt with as a serious incident of bullying by the school.

Should **any** of the above behaviour occur on school premises the school may contact the appropriate authorities, and, if necessary, refuse the offending person(s) entry to 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.

Agreed by governors

The Catholic School Code of Conduct has been developed to promote a Christian learning environment based on respect for the rights and dignity of every child, pupils, staff, teachers and parents. Young people learn best when they are free of interference by others and know what is expected of them. Teachers are most effective when they use a consistent approach towards the pupils and when they apply the values of the school in their interactions.