



## **Welwyn St Mary's Parents' Code of Conduct**

At Welwyn St Mary's we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. 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 understanding.

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

- Respect the caring Christian 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 their 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 will not tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following:**

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes, or threatens to interfere with, the operation of a classroom, office or any other area of the school and grounds including team matches.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing or displaying temper.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil.
- Damaging or destroying school property including any items loaned e.g. reading books.
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication including those of a harassing or unreasonable nature.

- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other networking. Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher or the head teacher so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- Online activity that would cause the school, staff, pupils or others distress or bring the school community into disrepute
- 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 possible negative actions towards their own child. Such may be seen to be an assault and may have legal consequences.
- Smoking 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 ban 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 our school. Please also make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

### **Inappropriate use of social networking**

Social networking is being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, headteachers, school staff, and, in some cases, other parents/pupils. The Governors of Welwyn St Mary's considers this as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated at Welwyn St Mary's being found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook, or other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate section of the network site. All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted and they provide robust mechanisms to report 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. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly is the issue of cyber bullying by inappropriate social network entry. We will deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare. We expect parents and carers to support the school's policy and help prevent their children from signing up to services such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Youtube whilst they are underage (13+ years in most cases). We also expect that parents will be responsible for closing online accounts that are found to be active for their underage children.

**Agreed by Governors: 11.10.17**