



ARCHBISHOP
MCGRATH CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL

PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

OUR VISION

‘Christ at the Centre’

Our core purpose is to ensure that all pupils reach or exceed their potential by using their God-given talents to develop as healthy, ambitious, capable, life-long learners ready to live as valued members of our local community, Wales and the world.

We aim for all our pupils to leave our school as:
Empowered, Virtuous and Employable individuals,



Code of Conduct – Parents, Carers and Visitors

Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School aspires to empower our community to be collaborative, resilient, and reflective of individuals who have the self-confidence to embrace challenge.

Introduction

Governors and staff at Archbishop McGrath School are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent and carer community. Our parents and carers recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between them and the school. We welcome and encourage parents and carers to participate fully in the life of our school and we will act to ensure it remains a safe place to learn and work. Behaviour that is harassing or causes alarm or distress is contrary to the aims of Archbishop McGrath School.

Purpose

We expect all members of our school community to behave in a reasonable way. However, there may be occurrences when behaviour by parents, carers and/or visitors to the school may be considered unacceptable. This policy outlines the steps that will be taken in those rare circumstances.

Aims

The aims of this code of conduct are to ensure that all members of our school community treat each other with respect and that they feel safe on the school site. The vast majority of our parents, carers and visitors are keen to work with us and are supportive of the school's work. If anyone has concerns, we will always listen and seek to address them. We trust that parents, carers and visitors to our school will assist us with the implementation of this policy and we thank them for their continuing support of the school.

We would be grateful if parents and carers could ensure that they make all persons responsible for collecting their children aware of this policy.

Consultation:

This policy has been drawn up in consultation with staff and the governing Body including parent representatives.

Expectations

We expect all parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos and values of our school and cluster
- Understand that school staff, governors and parents/carers need to work together for the benefit of the learners.
- Treat all members of the school community with respect.
- Approach the school and our staff courteously to help resolve any issues of concern
- Remember and appreciate how busy members of staff are during the school day.
- Make an appointment when you need to speak with a member of staff
- Remember that staff will not be asked to leave a class to meet a parent, carer or visitor who has not made a prior appointment.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Speak to their child when their behaviour poses a risk to the safety of the school community in order to avoid any risk of conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour.
- Comply with the school policy on behaviour, including the school's Anti-Bullying policy and Dignity at work policy, and reinforce this with their children.
- Avoid using staff as threats to influence children's behaviour.
- Respect the school environment, to include but not limited to: using correct pedestrian footways into school, driving carefully and considerately within permitted areas following any instructions issued by school staff.

Types of Unacceptable Behaviour

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment, the school will not accept the following behaviours exhibited by parents, carers and visitors:

- Using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour towards the school staff, learners, other parents, carers or visitors, to include but not limited to: loud/or offensive language, shouting, swearing, cursing, using profane language, attempting to physically intimidate, use of aggressive hand gestures or displaying temper.
- Threatening to harm a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or learner regardless of whether the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Sending abusive, vexatious, or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications.
- Dictating behaviour to staff about how their professional duties should be discharged.
- Speaking to any member of school staff at the school in a manner that is aggressive, demanding or intimidating including invading their personal space.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to any member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or learner regardless of whether that behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Defamation of the character and/or reputation of the school or any member of staff on social networking sites.
- Please note that any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned using the appropriate complaints procedure. You should ask for a copy of school's Complaints Policy and follow the steps identified in making a formal complaint.
- 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 to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards your own children.
- Wearing clothing that may include offensive language and/or images.
- Making racist, homophobic, transphobic or sexist comments.
- Smoking (tobacco or e-cigarettes) and consuming alcohol or illegal drugs on school premises.
- Attending school premises under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Bringing dogs, except for assistance dogs, to school premises.
- Behaviour or conduct which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, office or any other area of the school grounds and playing fields, including but not limited to team matches. The school will support any decision made by a referee to sanction a parent including the abandonment of a fixture.

This list provides illustrations of unacceptable behaviour. It is not exhaustive.

Consequences of unacceptable conduct

Parents, carers or visitors whose conduct is deemed to be offensive, threatening, aggressive or causes any form of distress will be asked to leave the school premises and must leave at once. If this behaviour is demonstrated via telephone, then following a warning and advice that the call will be terminated.

Should any of the above behaviours occur on school premises the school may contact the appropriate authorities including the police and/or social services. If necessary, the school will restrict the access of the person concerned to the school, which may mean prohibiting this person from entering the school grounds. The school may also put in place a communication strategy to restrict communications between this person and the school. The school reserves the right to take any necessary actions to ensure that members of the school community are not subjected to abuse. This includes a lockdown of the school and the immediate request for the police to attend the school. Please note that any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively. When making a formal complaint, you should follow the steps identified in the school's Complaint Policy. The school will also consider its safeguarding protocols should the behaviour of a parent, carer or visitor raise concerns.

Inappropriate use of Social Networking Sites

Social media forums are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and voice complaints against schools, headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/learners. The school seeks to teach learners the importance of appropriate and responsible use of social media. It is therefore vital that everyone in the school community, including parents and carers, leads by example.

The Governors of our school consider the harmful use of social media as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the learners or the school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors. In the event that any learner or

parent/carer 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 their site and provide robust mechanisms to report activities which breach them. The school's Behaviour policy applies to learners who engage in such activities. Our school also expects that any parent/carer or learner removes such comments immediately. Parents/carers making such comments will be invited into school to discuss the implications of posting slanderous comments.

The school also reserves the right to contact and report such comments or statements to the relevant authorities, including but not limited to the police and/or social services. In serious cases, the school will consider legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking sites.

Finally, and perhaps more importantly, is the issue of cyberbullying or the use of social media by a learner or a parent/carer with the intention to publicly humiliate another or a member of school staff. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

Responding to serious incidents

At any stage, the school may report serious incidents of abusive and threatening behaviour to the Local Authority or South Wales Police. Any incident of violent conduct will be immediately reported to the police. Additionally, the school has a statutory responsibility to report any racist or discriminatory incidents to the Local Authority. The School has an overarching legal obligation to safeguard and protect the wellbeing of its learners and will not hesitate to take such steps as are required to protect learners from harm or the risk of harm.

STEP 1 – Abusive behaviour on the school site: VERBAL WARNING

The headteacher (or a member of the Senior Leadership Team) will speak to the person(s) committing the harmful act privately. It will be put to them that such behaviour is unacceptable, and an assurance will be sought that it will not be repeated. It will be stressed on this occasion that repetition of such an incident will result in further, more serious action being taken. A written record of the incident will be made and note of warning will be added to the SIMS learner front page.

STEP 1 – Abusive behaviour via the telephone: VERBAL WARNING

The member of staff undertaking the conversation over the telephone will remind the person using any inappropriate or abusive language that their language is harmful and unacceptable and that the tone and language used with school staff must be appropriate. If the person using inappropriate or abusive language continues, the member of staff will inform them that they will hang up at the next use of such inappropriate or abusive language. If the behaviour continues, the member of staff will inform the perpetrator that they will be hanging up. A written record of the incident will be made and note of warning will be added to the SIMS learner front page.

STEP 1 – Abusive/unacceptable comments via email: WARNING

The member of staff receiving any unacceptable electronic communication will remind the person using any inappropriate or abusive language that their language, choice of words and or threatening communication is not appropriate, and any further actions will result in the matter being escalated via this policy and or the police being contacted. The member of staff should issue this warning by writing the following text into the electronic communication.

"In line with step 1 of the Parent, Carer and Visitor Code of Conduct, I am issuing a warning and may end the communication as I find the content disrespectful, harmful and abusive. Please refrain from using unacceptable comments and please consider using more appropriate comments when communicating with school staff". A written record of the incident will be made and note of warning will be added to the SIMS learner front page.

STEP 2: WRITTEN WARNING

A letter will be sent to the perpetrator informing them that their conduct is unacceptable. A copy of this letter will be added to SIMS and a note of warning will be added to the SIMS learner front page.

STEP 3: FINAL WRITTEN WARNING

If after STEP 2, a further incident occurs involving the same person, another letter will be sent to them giving a final warning that this abusive and threatening behaviour is unacceptable, and that a repetition of this conduct will leave

no option but to take further action. A copy of this letter will be added to SIMS and a note of warning will be added to the SIMS learner front page.

STEP 4: EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL PREMISES

If a further incident occurs or if an initial incident is considered serious enough, the school will enforce an exclusion from school premises. The school will also contact South Wales Police and complete an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) referral. Details of the exclusion will be added to SIMS and a note of warning will be added to the SIMS learner front page.

STEP 5: EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL PREMISES and/or REMOVAL BY POLICE

If, following a decision to exclude a person from the school premises, that person persists in entering the premises, we may report this to the police and request that they be removed by the police as a trespasser and guilty of an offence under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996. An individual may also be charged with an offence under the Public Order Act 1986. Parents, carers and visitors who are excluded from school premises may still seek an appointment to speak to school staff about their child's educational progress and enter the school premises for that purpose. Details of the removal will be added to SIMS and a note of warning will be added to the SIMS learner front page.

Any decision to exclude a parent or visitor from the school premises / grounds should be reviewed at an interval no longer than 6 months. When deciding whether it is necessary to extend the withdrawal of permission to come onto the school premises / grounds, consideration will be given to the extent of your compliance with the decision, any appropriate expression of regret and assurance of future good conduct received from you and, generally, any evidence of your co-operation with the school.

STEP 2 LETTER

Dear

It has been reported to me that you have demonstrated behaviour that is not in line with the school's Parent, Carer and Visitor Code of Conduct on [date].

Delete as appropriate; On this occasion, your behaviour has upset members of our staff team and learners who were present.

or

On this occasion, your use of inappropriate and abusive language has upset one of our staff team.

[Provide a brief summary of the incident and its effect on staff and learners]

If you are unhappy about any aspect of your child's education, we can arrange to have a meeting at an appropriate time and place.

This letter serves as a written warning, in accordance with our Parent, Carer and Visitor Code of Conduct. I must inform you that any repetition of such behaviour could lead to an immediate withdrawal of permission for you to enter the school premises. A copy of this letter will be added to your child's record and a note of warning will be added to the SIMS learner front page.

Should you wish to discuss the content of this letter, please make an appointment to see me via the school reception.

Yours sincerely

Deputy Headteacher

STEP 3 LETTER

Dear

Further to our letter dated [DATE], I have received a further report of unacceptable conduct on (date).

[Provide a brief summary of the incident and its effect on staff and learners]

I must inform you that we do not tolerate conduct of this nature and will act to safeguard and protect school staff and learners from further incidents.

If you are unhappy about any aspect of your child's education, you can arrange to have a meeting with me at an appropriate time and place.

This letter serves as a final written warning, in accordance with our Parent, Carer and Visitor Code of Conduct. I must inform you that any further incidents of unacceptable behaviour will lead to an immediate withdrawal of permission for you to enter the school premises. A copy of this letter will be added to your child's record and a note of warning will be added to the SIMS learner front page.

Should you wish to discuss the content of this letter, please make an appointment to see me via the school reception.

Yours sincerely

Deputy Headteacher

STEP 4 LETTER

Dear

Further to our letter dated [DATE], I have received a further report of unacceptable conduct on (date).

[amend of first letter due to extreme behaviour]

[Provide a brief summary of the incident and its effect on staff and learners]

I must inform you that we do not tolerate conduct of this nature and will act to protect and safeguard school staff and learners. I am therefore instructing you that, until I have reviewed this incident and informed you otherwise, you are not to enter the school premises/grounds. If you do not comply with this instruction, and attend school premises/grounds, we will have no alternative but to contact the police and ask that you be removed as a trespasser on school premises/grounds. If you cause a nuisance or disturbance on the premises/grounds, you may be prosecuted under section 547 of the Education Act 1996. I trust these steps will not be necessary. Special arrangements can be made for you to meet with the headteacher, if necessary, but this may only be with the written permission of the Governors. The withdrawal of permission for you to enter the school premises/grounds takes effect immediately and will be in place for [insert days] school days in the first instance, subject to any review. I still need to decide whether it is appropriate to confirm this decision. Before I do, I wish to give you an opportunity to write to me with any comments or observations of your own in relation to the report that I have received. These comments may be to challenge or explain the facts of the incident, to express regret and/or give assurances about your future good conduct.

To enable me to take a decision on this matter, please send me any written comments you wish to make by (date: 10 school days from date of letter). If, on receipt of your comments, I consider that my initial decision should be confirmed, you will be supplied with details of how to pursue a review of your case.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

STEP 5 LETTER

Dear

On (date) I wrote to inform you that I had withdrawn permission for you to come onto the premises/grounds for a period of [x days]. To enable me to determine whether to extend this period, I gave you the opportunity to give your written comments on the incident concerned by (date).

I have not received a written response from you/I have received a letter from you dated (date), the contents of which I have carefully considered. In the circumstances, and after further consideration of the report, I have determined that the decision to withdraw permission for you to come onto school premises/grounds should be confirmed. I am therefore instructing you that, until further notice, you are not to come onto the premises/grounds of the school without the prior knowledge and approval of the headteacher. If you do not comply with this instruction, I shall have no alternative but to contact the police to have you removed from the premises/grounds of the school. If you cause a nuisance or disturbance on the premises, you may be prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996.

Even though we have taken this decision, the headteacher and staff at the school remain committed to the education of your child(ren), who must continue to attend school as normal. This decision will be reviewed again on (insert review date which should be a reasonable period and no longer than 6 months). When deciding whether it is necessary to extend the withdrawal of permission to come onto the school premises/grounds, consideration will be given to the extent of your compliance with the decision, any appropriate expression of regret and assurance of future good conduct received from you and, generally, any evidence of your co-operation with the school. If you wish to pursue the matter further, you have a right to follow the school's complaints policy, a copy of which is available on the school website. Should you wish to raise a complaint you should do so in writing to the Clerk to the Governors, via the school.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Relevant incidents include; trespass, nuisance or disturbance on school premises, verbal abuse, abuse via text, email or social media, sexual or racial abuse, threats, aggression, physical violence and intentional damage to property. This form should be completed as fully as possible, using a continuation sheet, if necessary.

Name of person reporting incident:	
Member of staff recording incident:	
Date incident recorded:	
Date of incident:	Time of incident:
Name(s) of person(s) causing incident (where name(s) is/are unknown, provide other details of which may allow their identification)	
Status(es) (parents / carers / visitors / trespassers)	
Full description of incident (e.g. names of persons involved; location; nature of any injuries; attendance of emergency services)	
Names and status of any witnesses:	
Initial action (refer to stages in code of conduct):	
Summary of subsequent actions taken by the school, including risk assessments:	
<i>If a risk assessment is required then these should be completed by the DHT and shared with all key stakeholders.</i>	
Linked incidents (if any)	
Acknowledged/signed (HT or DHT):	Date:

Ensure a copy of this record is placed into the learner record file and a copy is added to the incident record book located in the pastoral office.