



# Social Media Code of Conduct

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## **Statement of intent**

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School understands the benefits of using social media; however, if misused, the school community can be negatively affected, such as by damaging the school's reputation. This code of conduct sets out clear procedures for how we expect parents to conduct themselves on social media and when using messenger apps, such as WhatsApp and Instagram.

## **1. Legal framework**

1.1. This policy has due regard to statutory legislation, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Data Protection Act 2018
- Defamation Act 2013
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (as amended)

## **2. E-safety and social media conduct**

2.1. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School expects parents to behave in a civilised nature online and will not tolerate any of the following behaviour online:

- Posting defamatory 'statuses' about fellow parents, pupils, the school or its employees
- Complaining about the school's values and methods on social media

2.2. The school has a Complaints Procedures Policy in place, to avoid parents broadcasting grievances online.

2.3. Parents will be made aware of their responsibilities regarding their use of social networking and their conduct online.

2.4. Breaches of this code of conduct will be taken seriously by the school and, in the event of illegal, defamatory, or discriminatory content, breaches could lead to prosecution.

2.5. Parents will not attempt to 'friend' or 'follow' any member of staff on social media.

2.6. Parents are instructed not to post anonymously or under an alias to evade the guidance given in this code of conduct.

2.7. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School retains the right to request any damaging material to be removed from social media websites.

## **3. Online messaging**

3.1. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School expects parents to use messaging apps, such as WhatsApp, for purposes beneficial to themselves and the school, and will not accept any of the following behaviour:

- Sending abusive messages to fellow parents
- Sending abusive messages about members of staff, parents or the school
- Sending abusive messages to members of staff

- 3.2. The school appreciates the simplicity and ease of instant messaging online; keeping in contact outside of school can benefit the school community by keeping the school community closer.
- 3.3. Should any problems arise from contact over messaging apps, the school will act quickly by contacting parents directly, to stop any issues continuing.
- 3.4. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School can request a meeting with parents if any misconduct, such as sending abusive messages or posting defamatory statuses, occurs online.
- 3.5. The school's complaints procedure will be followed as normal if any members of the parent teacher association or governing body cause any discrepancies through their conduct whilst using online messaging.
- 3.6. The Principal can, with the permission of the parent, view messages sent between members of the parental body in order to deal with problems quickly and effectively.
- 3.7. The Principal can request that 'group chats' are closed down should any problems continue between parents or parental bodies.

#### **4. Monitoring and review**

- 4.1. The Academy Committee will review this code of conduct on an annual basis and will communicate any changes to all teachers and parents.
- 4.2. All parents will be required to read this code of conduct and sign the agreement form.

## Parent Declaration Form

I \_\_\_\_\_, parent of \_\_\_\_\_,  
declare that I have received, read and understand the terms and conditions of this code of  
conduct.

I understand my obligations under this code of conduct and agree to comply fully with them  
whilst my child is a pupil at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School.

The school will not tolerate any of the following:

- Sending abusive messages to parents or teachers
- Sending abusive messages about parents and teachers
- Posting defamatory 'statuses' about other parents, pupils, teachers or the school
- Using social media to complain or post any grievances about the school's values and methods

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_