



St Aldhlem's VA Church Primary School

Learning together for Life in all its fullness - John 10:10



Parent/Carer Code of Conduct

Mission Statement

St Aldhlem's is a caring school which aims to create a stimulating, learning environment in which every individual has the opportunity to be the best they can be; Learning together for life in all its fullness ~ John 10:10

Code of Conduct

At St Aldhlem's VA Church Primary School we value our strong relationship with parents and carers. Together this helps us achieve the very best for children in a mutually supportive partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community. As a partnership, our parents understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip their children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continually welcome and encourage parents or carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

To truly create the best outcomes for children requires the relationship between home and school to be based on the principles of care, integrity, trust and mutual respect. The maintenance of this relationship is important to ensure that a child or children are safe (please read our safeguarding policy) and not open to undue distress and anxiety.

Guidance

As well as following the guidance set out in our Home School Agreement and holding the above principles in mind, parents, carers and visitors are reminded to:

- Respect the caring ethos and values of the school
- Recognise that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children
- Approach school staff for help to resolve an issue in an appropriate manner
- Treat all members of the school community with respect, using appropriate language and behaviour
- Understand that the school needs to work with a child in order to clarify their version of events in order to bring about an appropriate solution to an issue
- Correct their child's actions especially where it could lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour – both on and off the school premises
- Use other strategies rather than using 'staff' as threats to admonish their children's behaviour
- Keep our school site safe by being mobile phone free

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school will not tolerate parents, carers or visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the schools operation or activities anywhere on the school premises
- Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper
- Threatening, in any way, a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent/carers or pupil
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Sending abusive or threatening e-mails, text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications to anyone within the school community
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff, either at the school, in the local community or on any social media sites (See Appendix 1)
- The use of physical or verbal 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, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises. (Alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events)
- Dogs being brought on to school premises (other than assistance dogs).

Should **any** of the above occur on school premises, the school may feel it is necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities and/or sadly, consider banning the offending adult from entering the school premises.

Thank you for abiding by this policy in our school. Together we create a positive and uplifting environment not only for the children but also all who work and visit our school.

Note: Can parents please ensure they make all persons responsible for collecting their children aware of this policy.

APPENDIX 1

Appropriate use of Online and Social Network Sites

Online channels are an important way for parents/carers to communicate with, or about, our school. The school uses the following channels:

- Email and text groups for parents (for school announcements and information)
- Our PTA Facebook page
- Our school website

Parents/carers also set up independent channels to help them stay on top of what's happening in their child's class. For example, class Facebook groups, email groups or chats (through apps such as WhatsApp).

When communicating with the school via official communication channels, or using private/independent channels to talk about the school, I will:

- Be respectful towards members of staff, and the school, at all times
- Be respectful of other parents/carers and children
- Direct any complaints or concerns through the school's official channels, so they can be dealt with in line with the school's complaints procedure

I will not:

- Use private groups, the PTA or class Facebook pages, or personal social media to complain about or criticise the school or members of staff. This is not constructive and the school can't improve or address issues if they aren't raised in an appropriate way
- Use private groups, the school's Facebook page, or personal social media to complain about, or try to resolve, a behaviour issue involving other pupils. I will contact the school and speak to the appropriate member of staff if I'm aware of a specific behaviour issue or incident
- Upload or share photos or videos on social media of any child other than my own

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, school staff, and in some cases other parents or pupils. The Government's Department for Education and Governors of St Aldhlem's VA Church Primary School considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable. Any concerns you may have about the school or your child/children must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, where they will be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

Libellous or Defamatory posts

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/children at St Aldhlem's school 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 the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

Cyber Bullying

We take cyber bullying very seriously. This is where one child or group of children intimidate or publicly humiliate another child/children by inappropriate internet communication. This may be through mobile phone messaging/texting, social network posts and/or online gaming platforms. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of bullying. The school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse on any form of internet communication.

Thankfully these type of incidents are extremely rare.