



# St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Fowler Road, Islington, London N1 2EP

Tel: 020 7359 1870 Email: school@stmarys.islington.sch.uk

www.stmarys.islington.sch.uk

Headteacher: Miss Genevieve Prayag



## Code of Conduct for Parents & Carers

### Rationale

At St. Mary's School we invest a lot of time in teaching children good citizenship. We believe that it is important that children understand the expected standard of behaviour in speech and actions. For some pupils this is easy to achieve, others find it more difficult and need lots of reinforcement; this is why we make it a focus of teaching, worship and an area for praise when it is achieved by one or many.

Schools, in their very nature, will have more children in their environment, than at home. It is unlikely that children will be expected to put their hand up for permission to speak in the home environment; and for many children they will be used to being able to have direct access to equipment or attention and not having to share or take their turn. The school vision, values and expectations for behaviour support children not only in their development and respect for one another, but also in their understanding of the importance of a calm environment to help them focus on their learning and communications with others. There is also a need in school to teach children what to do when in dispute with another child such as resolving arguments calmly through explaining and listening to each other's point of view. Children often need help and guidance to do this and to accept that the outcome will not always be their own chosen outcome.

In order for the huge effort that is devoted to this work in school to have the maximum positive outcome it is important that parents/carers reflect and support these values and behaviours in their school/home responses and communications. In doing this the children are seeing positive adult role models in all aspects of their school life; thus making it much easier for them to achieve the expected standard of behaviour.

The school's Code of Conduct for parents /carers provides guidance on what the school expects from their child and how they can conduct themselves to assist the school and their child in achieving this. The school's aim is to work in partnership with parents in being positive role models for children. It is expected and hoped that parents/ carers will want to support their child and therefore the school to behave positively and respect this code of conduct.

### Code of Conduct

- 1) *Children are expected to use acceptable language in school. Swearing, crude terms, name calling including racist, homophobic, gender or ability insults are unacceptable.*

**Parents/carers are expected whilst in the school buildings and grounds adhere to the same expectations** and to back the school in the expected language used by their child at school.

- 2) *Children are expected to deal with disputes calmly, calling upon an adult to assist them in resolving arguments. In the resolution they are expected to:*



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- ✓ *Wait patiently taking their turn in explaining and to do so politely and calmly (an adult may give them 'calming down time' in order for them to be able to do this, or in the case of an older/ more literate child asked to write their point of view),*
- ✓ *Listen to the other person(s) without interrupting,*
- ✓ *Be honest,*
- ✓ *Accept that the resolution may be that they are in the wrong or cannot have things as they want them.*

**Parents/carers should similarly communicate with staff or if necessary other parents/carers in a calm and polite manner.** It would be preferred by the school if complaints about another child in school time were communicated directly to a member of staff usually the class teacher, rather than being dealt with between parents/carers. If the issue is based on a school time problem the staff are more likely to have information about it and be able to resolve it. **Parents/carers are asked not to approach other people's children either to question them or to discipline them.**

- 3) *Children are taught to understand that their view on a matter may not be the only viewpoint that an issue can be considered from and that they may not have all the information available to make the best decision.*

**Parents/carers are expected to recognise that what their child tells may not represent the whole picture** (even when backed by their friends); and that their child may not actually have access to the whole picture.

- 4) *Children are expected to know that sometimes they have to wait to be listened to or have action taken. Most come quickly to understand that they need to take their turn and that sometimes other things have to take priority i.e. a child who is hurt or setting a whole group to work before one individual can take the teacher's attention.*

**Parents/carers are asked to recognise that their child's issue whilst important to them may have to take a lesser priority in the actions of a member of staff.**

Parent/carers are also asked to recognise that teachers and the head teacher are not always able to see them straight away but that we do have an appointment system for this reason; **teachers should never see parents/carers at 9am** as it is important that teachers are focussed on their class at 9am to give a positive start to the day. Messages for a teacher can be given in at the office or in the form of a letter.

- 5) *Children are expected to report incidents to an adult and not to retaliate in kind.*

**Parents/ carers are expected to understand that if their child retaliates thus copying the poor behaviour or another child they will also be reprimanded.** In the school situation that someone did something wrong and a child then choose to do the same thing does not help, and usually makes the issues worse.



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### Helpful Hints for situations you may encounter:

#### **What do I do if?**

##### **My child tells me of something that has upset him/her?**

- Ask your child to explain to you exactly what happened, what the other, and what your child did.
- Ask them if they told an adult in school and what they told them (children often are too busy playing to tell us about things that later they remember and tell at home or report something in the briefest terms assuming that the adult can therefore read their mind).
- If you are concerned when you have all this information from your child, please make an appointment to see your child's teacher at a time that is convenient to you both.

##### **My child says he/she has told an adult about something and they did nothing?**

- Ask your child who they told and what they told them.
- The adult in most cases will have done something but will not necessarily have done it straight away, especially if they are already dealing with something or a child is hurt
- It is good to explain the above to your child but again if you feel it is an issue of concern arrange to see the class teacher at a mutually convenient time.

##### **I see an incident in the playground before or after school that worries me?**

- Report it with as much detail as you can either to the class teacher when you can arrange a time to see them or at the office if it is appropriate.
- Please do not approach the children yourself; not unnaturally most parents/carers are concerned about adults who they do not recognise as members of staff approaching their children.

##### **I have reported something about another child but have not been told what has been said to the child or their parents/carers.**

- It is not school policy to discuss a child with another parent/carers; therefore, the school will investigate and follow up on reports but will not report back.

##### **I have seen something happen to a child from the school that I think constitutes a child protection issue.**

- Phone social services and report the incident issue ASAP (you can do this anonymously if you so wish). Whilst you may also wish to inform the head teacher at school it is important that as the eye witness you report to social services and if the incident is post school it may be at least 12 hours before the school is able to ascertain if the child is safe; this could be too late.

##### **I am approached by another parent/carers who complains about my child.**

- Ask the parent/carers calmly if they have reported this to the school. Tell them that you will make, and then make, an appointment with the class teacher to discuss the issue.
- The school does ask that parents/carers do not approach each other. This is because the school would hope that information pertaining to situations is already known to the school, and may not be known to parents/carers in the same detail and so that there are not aggressive situations between parents/carers.



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