

GUARDIAN ANGELS' RCPS PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Policy approved by: Governors

Date: April 2026

Last reviewed: June 2024

Next review: April 2028

Mission Statement

We follow in the footsteps of Jesus to love, learn and grow.

Purpose of this policy

At Guardian Angels' RCPS, we believe it is important to:

- Work in partnership with parents to support their child's learning
- Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupil's, staff and parents
- Model appropriate behaviour for our children at all times

To help us to do this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our school community. This includes staff (through the Staff Code of Conduct) and children (through the Well-being and Readiness to learn policy)

This code of conduct aims to help the school work together with parents by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

- Anyone with parental responsibility for a child
- Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or child-minders)

Our expectations of parents and carers

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our children
- Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech and behaviour
- Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct
- Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern

Behaviour that will not be tolerated

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds, sports team matches)
- Swearing, or using offensive language
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, children or other parents
- Threatening another member of the school community

- Taking videos, photos or audio recordings on the school premises without permission of the Headteacher
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms
- Use of physical punishment against your child while on school premises
- Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult
- Disciplining another person's child – please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention
- Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than working dogs)

Breaching the code of conduct

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the parent about the incident.

Depending on the nature of the incident, the school may then:

- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent in to school to meet with a member of the senior leadership team or the Executive Headteacher
- Contact the appropriate authorities, police (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from Bury LA and Salford Diocese legal teams regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the parent from the school site for a fixed time (see 'barring from the school premises')
- Restrict channels of communication (eg. no longer allowed to email staff directly / use a single point of contact)
- In the case of defamatory comments posted online, we would report the post to the site's admin
- In some cases, we may also need to refer to Social Care if the behaviour of a parent / carer or visitor indicates that they may be unsafe around children

The school will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the Executive Headteacher.

The Executive Headteacher will consult the Chair of Governors before barring a parent from the school site.

Social Media Sites

We recognise the value social media brings to the school communities and would encourage the distribution of positive comments and messages about our school. We ask that parents/carers demonstrate tolerance and respect towards other people's opinions and beliefs when posting on a school social media site, or on a site not controlled by the school.

Inappropriate use of social network sites

Social network websites and online systems are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools and staff including Headteachers, and in some cases other parents/students. The use of social network sites being used in this way is viewed as unacceptable and is not in the best interests of the children or school communities and can seriously harm an individual's wellbeing. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, senior leader or the Executive Headteacher / Head of School so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned and at the earliest opportunity.

In order to avoid inappropriate social network activity, the following actions will be considered a breach of the Code of Conduct:

- Making complaints, negative comments or factually inaccurate statements about the school.
- Posting photographs or videos of the pupils taken on school premises or on a trip or visit without permission from the parents/carers of those pupils.
- Creating a social network page/forum in the name of the school, using official logos to imitate the school or posting comments in the guise of the school.
- Posting photographs or videos of staff including photographs of staff available on the school website.
- Making negative comments about other parents/carers, pupils and staff. Any comments or concerns should be raised with the school directly.
- Using defamatory and inappropriate language in relation to other parents/carers, pupils and staff.

If any pupil or parents/carers of a pupil are found to be posting defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the social network site. It is likely that the police will also be informed. All social network sites have clear rules about the age of children using the platforms, the content which can be posted on the site, and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches them. Our school will also expect that any parent/carer removes such comments immediately when requested and the child will be removed from the site. In some cases, it may be necessary for the school to seek legal advice on comments or posts and this may result in a warning letter being sent to the individual responsible. If the content is still not removed legal action may be taken against those responsible for the content.

The safety and wellbeing of the school community is paramount to the operation of the school. We take very seriously the issue of cyber bullying by a child or a parent to publicly humiliate another parent, child or member of staff as serious inappropriate social network use. We will deal with this as a serious incident of bullying. In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites.

Use of Seesaw

This code of conduct applies to all school communication platforms and anyone behaving in a way that threatens or harms the wellbeing of our pupils, parents or staff will not be tolerated and will be dealt with as per this policy.

Use of parent WhatsApp

Whilst the school cannot control what is said on private WhatsApp groups, we would remind parents of this code of conduct and to think about the impact of any comments they make and the impact they may have on others.

If the school is made aware of anything derogatory or inflammatory being posted on WhatsApp then the school will recommend that it is reported to the police and any other relevant authorities.

Barring from the school or trust premises

The public has no automatic right of entry to any school.

If a parent/carer's behaviour is a cause for concern, a senior leader can ask him/her to leave school premises. In serious cases, the Executive Headteacher can notify them in writing that their implied licence to be on school premises has been temporarily revoked subject to any representations that the parent/carer may wish to make to the Executive Headteacher. The parent/carer will have the opportunity to formally express their views on the decision to bar in writing.

During the barring period, all contact should go through the School office either by email or telephone.

The Executive Headteacher's decision to bar should be reviewed by the Chair of Governors. They should take into account any representations made by the individual and decide whether to either confirm or lift the bar. If the decision is confirmed, the individual should be notified in writing, with details of:

- how long the bar will be in place
- when the decision will be reviewed

Once the school's appeal process has been completed, individuals may be able to apply to the Civil Courts. Individuals wishing to exercise this option should seek independent legal advice. Any ban should be reviewed at the end of the agreed timescale as outlined above