St Catherine's
BRAMLEY

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Head: Ms Emma Watson, BEng, MBA
Prep Head: Miss Naomi Bartholomew, BEd (Hons), MA

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Introduction

At St Catherine's School we are committed to fostering a safe and respectful environment for everyone. As part of this, we set expectations about the conduct and behaviour of all members of our community, including the families of children at the School.

When you apply for and (if a place is offered) when you accept a place for your child at St Catherine's School it is the start of a partnership in which good working relationships between staff and parents are essential. In order to fulfil our obligations to you and your child, and to maintain a constructive relationship with you, we ask for your cooperation and that you engage with the School in a manner that is reasonable and respectful.

The Parent Contract sets out your obligations as parents of a child at the School.

This Code of Conduct provides further detail about how we expect parents to interact with the School and behave towards and communicate with other members of the School community, including School staff, representatives of the School and other pupils – in person or online.

For the purpose of this Protocol, parent has the same meaning as parent in the Parent Contract and means any person who has signed the Acceptance Form as a holder of parental responsibility for the child at the School. It will – in addition - also include prospective parents who are engaging with the School's admissions process.

2. Supporting your child

It is important that parents model good behaviour and learning habits. The School expects that you will support your child in their education and participation in School life including by:

- encouraging your child in their studies and giving appropriate support at home, including by providing suitable time and space for any homework to be completed independently;
- ensuring your child attends School and arrives on time and ready to learn;
- responding to any requests for information or consent regarding your child's participation in School activities in a timely manner;
- engaging quickly, openly and cooperatively with School staff should they raise any concerns with you regarding your child's academic progress, behaviour or wellbeing; and
- attending routine parent meetings or any individual meetings arranged to discuss or support your child.

This list is not exhaustive.

3. Sharing information with the School

In order for the School to provide the best possible education and care for your child it is essential that details of any matters that may affect your child are shared with the School in a timely and transparent manner and that such information is accurate, truthful and not misleading. This will include information (or any updates to information) relating to:

- your child's emotional, psychological or physical wellbeing;
- any health/medical condition, disability or allergies;
- any special educational needs;
- any court orders applicable to your child;
- your child's ability to continue as a pupil at the school (e.g. inability to pay the School fees/any change in immigration status); or
- any other matter that may impact on your child's engagement in day-to-day School life.

The School will apply this Code in accordance with its obligations under the Equality Act 2010. Where appropriate, the School will consider reasonable adjustments to the way in which a parent is able to communicate or engage with the School.

4. Communicating with the School Equality and reasonable adjustments

The School values positive, timely, two-way communication with parents and expects that all parents will:

- check the most appropriate member of staff to contact about a particular issue;
- refrain from unreasonably duplicating correspondence;
- respect the working hours of staff when making contact and while awaiting a response;
- understand that teachers must prioritise time with their pupils and are unlikely to be able to answer calls or respond to emails immediately during the School day;
- if requesting a meeting or telephone call, provide as much information as possible in advance so that staff can prepare appropriately and ensure a productive meeting;
- raise any concerns or complaints directly with the School via the appropriate channels; and
- ensure all communications (whether in person, via email, by telephone or otherwise) are reasonable, polite and appropriate, including in respect of the content, tone, volume and/or nature of the communication.

We encourage you to raise any day-to-day queries or issues regarding your child's experience at school at the earliest opportunity and we hope we can work together in a constructive manner to resolve them. The School has a Complaints Policy which governs how any complaints will be handled and this seeks to resolve complaints informally, where possible and appropriate

5. Respecting professional decisions

Parents are entitled to ask reasonable questions about decisions concerning their child and, where applicable, to challenge a decision through the School's published procedures. The School nevertheless expects parents to recognise that professional decisions ultimately rest with the School where the Parent Contract and applicable law provide for this. Although always willing to discuss the context for any decision regarding your child, the School expects parents to understand and respect that, as education professionals, School staff:

- have an overriding duty to the pupils in its care, including your child. This duty of care to each pupil must always be balanced against the needs of the School community as a whole as well as against the rights and interests of parents;
- may issue a disciplinary sanction against a pupil, following due process and in accordance with the School's policies relating to behaviour and discipline with the expectation that parents will support and uphold any such measure;
- will allocate pupils to teaching sets (where applicable) based on their professional judgment and knowledge of each individual pupil within the context of the pupil's peer group; and
- are obliged to act with integrity and honesty when predicting or assessing grades, writing references for pupils or engaging with exam requirements and regulations (including in respect of suspected malpractice).

6. Unacceptable conduct or behaviour

The School values the positive and respectful approach that most parents bring to their interactions with staff and the wider school community. However, instances where the School determines that parental conduct or behaviour has fallen short of the expectations as set out in this Code of Conduct will be taken seriously. Where warranted and depending on the nature of the conduct or behaviour in question, the School will take appropriate steps in response which could include, for example:

- not progressing an application (where the conduct is by a prospective parent);
- writing to the parent/s to remind them of their obligations and the expected standards of behaviour/conduct;
- requiring specific action, for example, to attend a meeting or provide certain information;
- inviting the parent/s to meet with a senior member of staff or the Head;
- putting in place a communication plan which places some parameters or conditions on the manner in which the parent/s may communicate with the School;
- restricting the parent(s) from accessing certain areas of the School site or attending specific School events; or
- requiring the removal of their child from the School in accordance with the School's Exclusions and Required Removal Policy.

This list is not exhaustive.

The School will always respond to an incident in a proportionate way, prioritising at all times the interests of our pupils and wider School community.

The following are examples of parental conduct that is particularly serious and may result in your child being asked to leave the School under the terms of the Exclusion and Required Removal Policy:

- repeated and or persistent breaches of the Parent Code of Conduct or Parent Contract;
- treating the School, a member of staff or another member of the School community unreasonably, which may include:
    - acts of physical aggressive, violence, intimidation or threat;
    - use of offensive, abusive or otherwise inappropriate or disrespectful language; or
    - any discriminatory, bullying or harassing conduct or behaviour including sexual harassment.
- making a malicious allegation about a member of staff or the School;

- posting derogatory, defamatory or offensive comments about the School or any member of the School community online;
- communicating with the School in person or in writing (directly or indirectly) in a manner which is deemed voluminous, relentless, confrontational, unreasonable, and/or overly aggressive; or
- behaving in a manner which is likely to, or does, adversely affect the safety or welfare of any member of the School community.

This list is non-exhaustive.

We appreciate parents taking the time to read and follow this Code of Conduct.