

St Francis of Assisi Catholic College

'Nil satis optimum'



Parent Code of Conduct

Last reviewed: September 2025

Next review due by: September 2026

1. Purpose and scope

At St Francis of Assisi Catholic College we believe it's important to:

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

To help us do this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community. This includes staff (through the staff code of conduct) and pupils (through our behaviour 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 pupil
- Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or child-minders)

2. 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 pupils
- 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

3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches)
- Swearing, or using offensive language
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- Threatening another member of the school community
- Being rude or raising a voice at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media. Any concerns you may have about the school must be shared through the appropriate channels by speaking to the school, so this can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned

- 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 verbal or in writing) towards members of staff, pupils or other parents
- 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 guide dogs)
- Parking without consideration for others on the school site

Inappropriate use of Social Network Site Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools and their staff, and in some cases other parents/carers or students. The Governing Board considers the use of social media sites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the HAL, the Senior Leadership Team or by following our Complaints Policy, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any student or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in the 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 student removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites.

Additionally, and perhaps more importantly is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by one child or a parent/carer to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

4. Breaching the code of conduct

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school may gather information from those involved.

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

- Communicate in a single and secure way that protects all parties
- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent into school to meet with a senior member of staff or the headteacher
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from our legal support regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)

➤ Ban the parent from the school site

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 headteacher.

The headteacher will consult the chair of governors before banning a parent from the school site.