**St. Patrick's Primary School,**

**Legamaddy**

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**Draft Parental Code of Conduct**

Date ratified by:

Date to be reviewed:

**Mission Statement:**

As a Catholic School, we at St Patrick’s, Legamaddy, seek to provide a caring, secure and happy environment in which all children are treated as unique individuals who are given the opportunity to grow in independence and develop self-confidence.

We believe this will enable our children to be better prepared personally, academically, spiritually and socially for the challenges of young adult life.

**We aim to:**

* Develop the young person as an individual and help them become a positive contributor to society.
* Enable children to reach their full potential by providing a broad and balanced curriculum with a varied range of extra-curricular activities.
* Work closely with home, community & church to create an environment in which we promote learning.
* Develop spiritual awareness through a strong Catholic Ethos which encourages the values of trust, honesty, respect, tolerance and a sense of fair play.
* Utilize emerging technologies to develop the child’s ability to become effective learners and provide them with the life skills for modern society.

This policy document was produced in consultation with pupils, parents, school staff, governors.

Throughout this policy, wherever the word ‘parent’ is used, it refers to parents and carers.

At St. Patrick's Primary School, we are lucky to have a supportive and friendly parent body.

Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, teachers and the school community. It is really important to have a good working

relationship between home and school to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons, we continue and encourage all parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our School.

**1 Aims of the Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents and carers of our school about the expected conduct. This is so that we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. What is important is how we behave together.

We expect that parents/carers:

* Respect the caring ethos of our school.
* Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children.
* Demonstrate that all members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore, set a good example in their own speech and behaviour, as everyone in school is a ‘duty bearer’ (positive role model). This includes when parking near to the school. Please adhere to the parking restrictions.
* Seek to understand a child’s version of events and also school’s view, in order to bring solutions to any issues.
* Approach school to help resolve any issues of concern. This should be done through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, member of the Senior Leadership team, Principal or the Chair of Governors so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
  1. The school is dedicated to ensuring that all students achieve their potential and will work in partnership with all stakeholders to achieve these aims. The school is therefore required to have a policy to address parent/carer’s behaviour that is unacceptable and has a detrimental effect on the good order and safety of the school. The school has a duty of care for both staff and students to ensure their safety and well-being. This policy will outline the behaviours that are unacceptable to the school and what sanctions are available to deal with the behaviour.
  2. This policy should be read in conjunction with the ‘Complaints Policy’ as the school expects all parental concerns and complaints to be taken seriously and to be dealt with comprehensively and as far as possible in confidence. The school’s complaints policy allows parents’ complaints about school issues to be dealt with efficiently and sensitively and at the appropriate level.

**2 The Scope and Application of this Policy**

2.1 The School will take the appropriate action to deal with any unacceptable behaviour on the school premises, which may include seeking legal advice where necessary.

These behaviours are not acceptable in our school:

* Offensive language or malicious comments
* Unwarranted and unnecessary correspondence taking up undue teaching and administrative time
* Intimidation
* Harassment
* Aggressive behaviour
* Threatening behaviour
* Racist conduct
* Incitement of others and threats or risk of injury
* Offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the staff at the
* School on any Social Media sites (see separate section)

This policy does not affect the right of parents/carers or other parties to make complaints or raise concerns to the school.

**3 Key Principles**

* All members of the school community have the right to expect that their school is a

safe place in which they develop and learn.

* There is no place for intimidation, violence, threatening behaviour, verbal or physical

abuse or harassment in our school

* Clear documentary evidence is kept of any correspondence, action or decisions for a period of at least 12 months
* The school will fully investigate all valid concerns
* Any decisions will be fully communicated to the parent/carer
* Any parent behaving unlawfully will be reported to the police

**4 Procedures**

The school has a range of strategies to employ with any parent who persists with unacceptable conduct. Whilst these sanctions are set out in the policy by way of a sequential process, they can be initiated at any stage if, in the judgement of the Principal the severity of the behaviour warrants such a level of intervention.

4.1 **Verbal Warning/Mediation Meeting**

A parent who displays any of the behaviour as described above will be asked politely to desist and offered the opportunity to discuss the matter in person on the first occasion.

4.2 **One Formal Written Warning**

A formal written letter will be sent to the parent where they continue to act unacceptably. This is signed by the Principal and circulated to relevant internal parties to ensure that an informed and consistent approach can be adopted. This letter is kept on file of the student at the school (whose parents/carers have received the warning) for a period of time the child attends this school.

4.3 **Legal Sanctions**

If a parent breaches the expected standard of behaviour as set out in the Parental Code of Conduct despite formal written warnings, then the school will seek Legal advice.

**5 Responsibilities:**

5.1 The School Governors are responsible for:

* approving the School policy, procedures, and guidelines
* receiving reports; and any necessary documentation
* The School Governors will monitor the level and nature of reports and review the outcomes annually or earlier if so determined by the Chair.

5.2 The Chair of Governors is responsible for:

* monitoring the good order and safety of the School
* checking that the correct procedure is followed

5.3 The Principal is responsible for:

* the overall internal management of the procedures
* ensuring that the procedures are monitored and reviewed and reports made to the Governing Body
* the efficient operation and management of the policy and procedures
* training staff on how to deal appropriately with difficult parents
* keeping parents and staff informed of the procedures
* compiling reports
* Some of these responsibilities can be delegated as appropriate.

**6 Information for Parents**

The Parental Code of Conduct policy will be available via the School’s website or directly from the School.

**7 Monitoring and Review**

* The Principal will report to staff from time to time and to the Governing Body annually or earlier if the Chair so determines, on the number and type of incidents and behaviours displayed by parents received and their outcomes.

**8 Inappropriate use of Social Media**

1. Parents are asked to use social media sites responsibly and that the school would expect parents to support the school in trying to educate children about ‘cyber bullying’ and to protect pupils from becoming victims of such behaviour. Posting negative or offensive comments on social networking sites sets a poor example and could lead children to believe that ‘cyber bullying’ is in some way acceptable. Further, if children have access to negative comments about their school and teachers, it could reduce their confidence in the school and this could damage their education. If parents have any issues or grievances, they should turn to the school in the first instance.

Inappropriate postings on social media which are threatening or abusive, sexist, of a sexual nature or constitute a hate crime, will be reported to the Police as online harassment is a crime. They will also 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.

1. Any concerns parents/carers may have should be raised through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, member of the Principal or the Chair of Governors so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
2. In the event that any parent/carer of a child/children being educated at our school is found to be posting libellous comments on Facebook or other social media 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. St. Patrick's Primary School will also expect that any parent / carer removes such comments immediately.
3. In serious cases, school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking or other sites.