

St Benedict's Catholic College



Parent Code of Conduct

Date reviewed	July 2024
Approved by Governors	September 2024
Date of next review	July 2027

1. Purpose and scope

At St Benedict's, 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 students, staff and parents
- Model appropriate behaviour for our students at all times

The vast majority of parents, carers and others visiting the college are keen to work with us and are supportive of the college. We set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community. This includes staff (through the staff code of conduct) and students (through our behaviour policy). On rare occasions when a negative attitude towards the college is expressed this can result in aggression, verbal and/or physical abuse towards college staff.

We expect all staff to behave professional in these difficult situations and attempt to diffuse the situation where possible, seeking the involvement of other colleagues as appropriate. However, all staff have the right to work without fear of violence and abuse.

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

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

- Anyone with parental responsibility for a student
- 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 college
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our students
- Treat all members of the college 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 college staff to help resolve any issues of concern

3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, college operations (including events on the college grounds and sports team matches)
- Shouting at college staff, either in person or over the telephone
- The use of aggressive hand gestures
- Swearing, or using offensive language
- Displaying temper, or shouting at members of staff, students or other parents/carers
- Threatening another member of the college community
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the college community, including via text, email or social media
- Rudeness in tone or inappropriate language

- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the college, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms
- Use of physical punishment against your child while on college 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 college premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- Hitting
- Spitting
- Racist or sexist comments
- Breaking the college's security procedures

4. Breaching the code of conduct

If the college suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the college will usually initially seek to resolve the situation through discussion or mediation.

Depending on the nature of the incident, the college may:

- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent into college to meet with a senior member of staff or the Principal
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from our legal team regarding further action (for example, in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the parent from the college site

The college 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 Principal.

The Principal will consult the Chair of Governors before banning a parent from the college site.

If a meeting is held, the main points will be copied to the parents to ensure both parties are clear about the outcome