



St Mary's Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Parent WhatsApp Groups

To aid communication between parents and carers many of our classes or groups of parents have set up WhatsApp groups, which operate independently of the school. We know these offer a great way to support and communicate with each other.

We understand that parents and carers find WhatsApp groups a really useful way of communicating with and supporting each other.

At St Mary's we believe it is important to:

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

Our school values are **honesty, respect, thankfulness, love and resilience**. We have high expectations for our children and expect them to understand and practice our values both in and out of school. We expect the same from our parents/carers as well.

Please note, the school considers the following online activity inappropriate:

- Abusive or personal comments about staff, pupils or other parents or any member of the school community
- Bringing the school into disrepute
- Posting aggressive, defamatory or libellous comments
- Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff, pupils or any members of the school community
- Threatening behaviour, such as verbally intimidating staff, or using bad language

We have had several complaints from parents of the school about the content of some class WhatsApp groups.

We urge you to consider the impact of some of the conversations on the mental wellbeing of both staff and parents. I and my staff are here to help your children strive to be the best they can be, we are not here to be abused in any way.

These conversations can also have a negative impact on the relationships between school and families, they can result in a huge misuse of staff time and cause a toxic atmosphere across the wider school community.

If you are concerned about inappropriate comments on a class WhatsApp group, in confidence, please contact our Senior Leadership Team by emailing the school office: admin@st-marys-swanley.kent.sch.uk.

We thank you all for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AMG', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amanda McGarrigle
Headteacher