



Freshford Church School Class WhatsApp Code of Conduct

Class WhatsApp groups are a useful and efficient way of communicating with each other and sharing information that is of general interest to all parents in the class.

Groups are set up by parents and participation is voluntary; individuals may choose to leave the group at any point. The Class Reps will be the group admins, and each group will have a minimum of two admins. The school does not post directly on any WhatsApp groups and does not monitor posts.

By participating in a Class WhatsApp group, parents and carers agree to follow this Code of Conduct.

Parents and carers should adhere to the following guidelines when using class WhatsApp groups:

- Messages posted on class WhatsApp groups should always be respectful in language and tone.
- The group should never be used as a platform to air views/grievances regarding a teacher, child or parent in the class or school.
- The group is not a political platform for airing opinions on current affairs.
- The group should not be used for private conversations between members within the group.
- Do not post any photos or videos of children on the group.

Any problems or concerns may be addressed by the following actions:

- Group admins may delete messages that contain misleading or incorrect information.
- Group admins may delete messages that are rude or aggressive in tone, or messages that contain unpleasant personal comments.
- Group admins may remove an individual from a Class WhatsApp group.
- Individuals should seek to resolve any conflict privately between themselves rather than in the group.
- If the behaviour of a group admin or a class rep is inappropriate, in the first instance the chair of the PTA should be contacted.
- If any issues cannot be resolved via the class admins or the PTA committee, a member of school staff or a school governor may step in to mediate.

If inappropriate messages are posted on a class WhatsApp group, the Headteacher will be informed. Additionally, if there is anything that leads you to be concerned about a child's welfare at any point, please contact Ruth Poole, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Thank you for your cooperation in modelling appropriate behaviour and upholding the values of the Freshford School community.