



Christian Fellowship School, Parent and Educational Team Agreement

At Christian Fellowship School, we fully support the statement that parents have prime responsibility for the nurture, discipleship, and education of their children. We believe in a spiritual collaboration with parents who are actively part of a functioning Christian faith community.

As a school we aim to support parents by providing a context where learning can take place within a Christ-centred curriculum. Our goals are to encourage a culture of mutual respect, support and collaboration between staff (educational team), parents and children for the benefit and success of pupils and the whole community.

In order to foster these goals, our statement of understanding is detailed below:

Responsibilities of the Educational Team:

While your child is in our care, we will endeavour to:

1. Provide a caring, safe and secure learning environment for your child
2. Promote good relationships based on mutual respect, openness, self-worth, forgiveness and friendship, accountability to God, all within a biblical framework
3. Impart a Christian understanding of morality and develop your child's conscience and sense of responsibility within the family and the school community
4. Reward and praise positive behaviour and be fair, just and impartial in the use of corrective discipline
5. Provide a Christ-centred and balanced curriculum, within a stimulating learning environment and a Biblical world view context, which seeks to meet the individual needs of your child
6. Provide an age-appropriate curriculum regarding the role and use of digital technology within a Christ-centered world view
7. Assess your child's progress regularly and keep you informed through reports and parent consultations
8. Make you aware of any issues that may affect your child's work, welfare or behaviour and respond to any communication from you

9. Keep you informed about the life of the school by providing general information, including relevant meetings and policies and also informing you about the topics to be covered by your child during the year or the content of courses in US
10. Strengthen a working partnership by providing forums relating to your child's developmental milestones and the transition into Middle and Upper School. These would include updating you on any academic course expectations/changes, plus giving you opportunities to keep informed about major cultural developments, for example in the use of social networking and digital technology
11. Encourage mutual ownership of vision and its development through Parents and Friends Collaborative (PFC) meetings
12. Encourage and welcome parental contribution to the life of the school.

Responsibilities of the Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

To support the Educational Team to effectively deliver a Christ-centred curriculum within a safe and effective environment, each parent/guardian will endeavor to:

1. Ensure that my child attends school regularly and on time and make sure that my child is collected on time at the end of the school day or make arrangements for him/her to go home at the correct time
2. Actively support the school's aims, values and code of conduct and reinforce the school's behaviour/discipline/bullying policy as set out in the school's policies
3. Ensure that my child has sufficient rest and an appropriate amount of sleep each night. Also, that they have a breakfast and a nutritious and sustaining packed lunch so they are ready to fully engage with the school day
4. Ensure that my child is equipped with all materials required and arrives at school with completed homework and that my child is wearing the correct uniform which is well presented and adheres to the dress code as set out in the uniform policy
5. Actively support my child at home with reading, learning activities, educational visits, also through engaging with set homework, encouraging good learning practices and organisation as set out in the homework policy and signing the homework diary or reading record daily
6. Read and respond to any communication from school either by letter, email or homework diary
7. Attend information evenings, PFC meetings, parents' evenings and requests to meet with staff which relate to my child's progress and behaviour at school

8. Keep school informed about changes of address and contact details, updates in medical conditions and about absence due to sickness by 9:30 on the first day. Also inform the school of any issues that may affect my child's work, welfare or behaviour
9. Ask permission for time away from school only in exceptional circumstances and in line with the school's attendance policy
10. Actively support and safeguard my child and the school community through engaging with cultural and moral issues arising especially from the media and digital technologies also collaborate with school and other parents to address any issues arising from interacting with culture, especially through the media and the digital world
11. Contribute wherever possible to school life by volunteering in school, offering practical assistance in the classroom, at special events, or other areas where school has asked for support and contribute to the spiritual life of the school through prayer.

In order to respect and honour the special nature of our school where staff and parents are often personal friends, together we will:

1. Consider the safety and welfare of the children to be of paramount importance and pass on any concerns to the school safeguarding team or Head teacher
2. Be careful to avoid discussing sensitive or confidential concerns in order to preserve and protect confidentiality within a close-knit community, avoiding unhelpful gossip and always acting in the best interests of the child. In the context of this considerations please refer to the Guidelines for Parents using class WhatsApp groups in the appendix below.
3. Be sensitive towards personal time when discussing issues around the needs of our own child(ren) with other staff and use the usual channels of communication at the beginning or end of the day, or by appointment with the teacher.

Finally, we recognise that family life can change, and a parent/guardian may find themselves in circumstances such that they cannot continue to engage in a culture of mutual respect, support and collaboration with the school. In such circumstances, the school reserves the right to withdraw a child's place if the working relationship between parents and school is considered, by the school, to have become untenable.

Approved by Governors

Review Frequency: 3 YEARS

Appendix

WhatsApp Guidelines for Parents

Since May 2018, the minimum age for using WhatsApp is 16 years old if you live in the European Union, including the UK. Prior to this, the minimum age was 13, which still applies for the rest of the world.

Parent Class WhatsApp groups are intended as a convenient way to share important school information to parents quickly and efficiently and for parents to communicate easily with each other regarding class matters, eg. homework.

DO use the groups for:

- Immediate questions about school day to day activities eg. what date homework is due in.
- Reminders about school events eg. dates and times of PFC, gardening mornings etc
- Lost property notices
- Sharing and swapping relevant school items e.g. spare uniform etc
- Sharing information about school eg. hoovering rotas for the class etc
- Posting a request from a teacher
- Please use the “reply” swipe function when replying to someone’s specific question so they can make sense of your comment and avoid confusion
- Consider what you post and how you phrase things; words and tone can be misinterpreted in messages.

Please **DO NOT** use the groups for:

- General casual chats - we are really pleased that there is a lively, friendly parent community at school, but as there are so many people in the groups, a little banter can soon escalate to a huge amount of messages. Important messages can then get lost, which makes the group ineffective and daunting to the more infrequent users.
- Please do not have one to one chats on the WhatsApp group. If the chat becomes between only two of you, carry on the chat in a private conversation.
- Please respect the time at which you post. Avoid posting early in the morning or late at night where possible.
- Please don’t respond to every post unless it is requested e.g. RSVP, request for volunteers.
- Do not use WhatsApp to air grievances, express opinions, talk about sensitive issues or use the group as a platform to share your personal views
- Do not share videos etc that might take up a lot of memory on other peoples’ phones.
- Do not try and settle disputes or conflicts. If there are disputes or conflict between parents, please deal with this privately with those concerned.
- Do not post the same message on multiple groups unless you have been specifically asked to
- Avoid replying to posts with “Thanks” or “Amen” otherwise simple brief conversations can become burdensome and overly lengthy, with key information potentially missed

WhatsApp is a brilliant way for parents to communicate quickly and easily with each other. If you feel that another parent is not following these guidelines, please contact Ester Redondo-Smith (ers@cfschool.org.uk), Parent Collaborative Governor.