

St Thomas Becket

Catholic Primary School Birchanger Road London SE25 5BN

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4th November 2022

Dear parents,

The use of parental WhatsApp groups has grown considerably over the years and, used responsibly, we recognise that sharing important and useful information on such platforms can be very helpful - sometimes essential - for busy parents. As with many things in life, however, there are times when social media may be used inappropriately. Unfortunately, it has become apparent that some parents are using their class WhatsApp to vent their own personal grievances and criticism, and worryingly, often involving allegations about other children in school.

This sets a poor example to our children of how to resolve issues and conflicts with our school ethos. Our Home / School agreement clearly sets out that all parents should:

• Ensure that any grievances or complaints relating to other parents or children are resolved within school and through the school processes.

In order for us to set the best possible example to our pupils, we must ask all our parents to align with these expectations, rather than canvas opinion via message groups about issues often reported to them 3rd hand and which often cause distress and anxiety to others.

The school will not hesitate to challenge parents who continue to use inflammatory language or unfounded insinuations about other members of our school community, rather than going through the proper channels to resolve concerns.

Thank you for the continued support of our parents who do uphold our school's core values including in online forums.

Your sincerely

Mr Campbell Headteacher

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