

Class WhatsApp Groups: Code of Conduct

The purpose of class WhatsApp groups is to facilitate communication between parents regarding school events and general school matters such as homework. These WhatsApp groups are also a place where parents/guardians can connect and get to know each other and become part of the wider school community.

The class WhatsApp groups are administered by Class Representatives, who liaise with a Parent Representative Coordinator, who is elected to that position on the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) committee.

It is essential that all members of our school community – pupils, staff and families – are respected and feel safe at all times. For class WhatsApp groups to remain effective and positive for all members, the following rules must be adhered to:

1. **Grievances:** The class WhatsApp groups are not platforms for grievances against pupils, teachers or any other member of our school community. Please refer instead to the school's Parental Complaints Procedure, available at www.goreyeducatetogether.ie
2. **Child Protection:** The class WhatsApp groups are not platforms for child protection concerns. Child protection concerns must be raised with Tusla or with the school principal.
3. **Be Respectful and Positive:** Always use respectful language and maintain a positive tone in all interactions.
4. **Appropriate Content:** Offensive language, inappropriate emojis & images, or any form of abusive or vulgar comments will not be tolerated.
5. **Limit Voice Notes:** Please avoid sending voice notes unless absolutely necessary.
6. **No Unapproved Advertising:** Do not post business advertisements or promotions unless approved by the PTA.
7. **Stay On-Topic:** Keep discussions relevant to the group's purpose. (For personal conversations or off-topic discussions, please use private messaging.)
8. **Limit Group Responses:** Avoid flooding the group with excessive responses. Be mindful of others' time and attention.
9. **Respect Quiet Hours:** Please refrain from sending messages or making calls before 8am or after 10pm.

Failure to adhere to the above rules may result in an individual's removal from the WhatsApp group.

Please note:

By requesting or accepting membership of a group the parent is agreeing to the sharing of their phone number with all other members of that group.

After joining a WhatsApp group there is always the option to leave.

GETNS is not responsible for any comments posted by individual members.

By remaining in the WhatsApp group, members will be considered as having agreed to the above rules.

All communication in the WhatsApp group is considered private and should not be disseminated outside of the group.

These rules may be amended from time to time. Community members will be advised of any changes prior to implementation.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Board of Management, Gorey Educate Together NS, November 2024