

Parents Group Chat Guidelines (Glasheen Boys' School)

Good practice, in the use of technology, by all members of the school community, is strongly promoted and encouraged by the Board of Management. The Board of Management of Glasheen BNS recognises group chat apps such as Whatsapp, Viber, Facebook Messenger etc., may be useful tools for the sharing of relevant information among parents. It is in everyone's interests to ensure that any forum is used appropriately. After some consultation, these guidelines, were drafted by our Board of Management, in consultation with our Parents' Association & staff. These guidelines to be reviewed in November 2019. Further suggestions welcome.

- If parents wish to establish a class group chat, in the school context, then parents should consider how best to moderate the group chat, eg. A moderator could be nominated, from within the group, with administrative rights over the group and the authority to request that **any inappropriate post be immediately removed.**
- Always keep to the purpose of the group. Don't share irrelevant messages about other topics.
- Each member of the school community – pupils, staff and parents – is entitled to have her/his **good name upheld.** To this end, individuals, incidents or **alleged incidents,** should never be discussed within a group chat. If a parent ever has a concern about a matter relating to the class, then in the first instance, the parent should make an appointment to discuss this with the class teacher. Appointments can be made by ringing the school office.
- Don't ask questions of a personal nature, contact the person directly.
- **The group should not be used for arguing, heated opinions, scaremongering, hyped up drama or fake news. Please check your sources before you share.**

If you are not sure, ask yourself these three questions before you post:

- Is this relevant? Is this necessary? Is this appropriate?

Note that the school has procedures to deal with issues relating to child protection. These should be immediately highlighted directly to the school and not addressed in other fora. We realise that the vast majority of posts adhere to these guidelines already and we appreciate that posts are **generally very well-intentioned.** Because our parent groups are so large, these guidelines are important to ensure that our communications with each other remain clear and respectful of each other and of the school. THANK YOU.