

## Guidelines for using Friends of St Oswald's Facebook Group

### Membership

The Friends of St Oswald's Group is a closed group, administered by a group of moderators (admin group). Membership is open to parents, staff (current and former) and others with links to the school. All requests to join are subject to approval by the admin group. No under 18's will be permitted to join.

### Purpose of the Group

The group is intended as an informal means to share ideas and information and provide mutual support. It exists to enhance the life of the community associated with the school by offering a means of communication with a wider group of parents / others than in the conversations at drop-off and pick-up times. The group is NOT intended as a means of official communication between school and parents, nor as a medium for raising specific issues related to individuals or incidents.

### Moderation

The group is moderated by a group of parent volunteers. We are committed to free flowing conversation and respecting differing opinions and will therefore keep intervention to a minimum.

**Where we believe that posts or comments are inappropriate, we will, however, intervene and remove them.** Any material that we believe to be a personal attack, obscene, illegal, or discriminatory with regards to race, religion, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation will be removed. If you see any such activity in the group, please report it to an administrator as soon as possible. There may be occasions when comments or posts need to be reported to Facebook and / or St Oswald's School.

### General Guidance

Please be as courteous when posting on this forum as you would be in real life. It is hard to convey the tone in which a comment is intended and sometimes messages can be misconstrued. We ask all members to follow these guidelines;

- We respect differing opinions about parenting and education on this forum. Please respect this when posting / commenting.
- Please keep all personal comments about others positive – by all means praise effusively, but please do not use this site to make disparaging remarks about any individual – parents, teachers or children
- As we are all associated with young children, please respect Child Protection good practice on this site by NOT posting any photos of under 18's and thinking carefully about how you refer to others' children. As a guideline; would you be happy if another parent shared the same thing about your child on a public forum? If you are uncertain– DON'T! Ask the child's parent in private first.
- If you want to express dissatisfaction about something at school, please consider whether this would be better raised with the staff directly. If you want to generate discussion, can you phrase your comment constructively or offer ideas for doing things differently? Remember your experience may not reflect the experience of the group. Do not make personally directed criticism.
- Remember that all members of the group can see what you post, therefore if you want to comment or share opinion that is not appropriate to be viewed publicly, please do this as a private message.
- Please don't swear– we won't necessarily always delete these posts (we're all grown ups after all) – but we will remove posts that we believe are obscene, intolerant, contain personal attack or break the law.
- Please keep spamming (links to websites which are unrelated to the life of the community linked to the school) to a minimum – this is not a forum for promoting your other interests.
- Please do not make any changes to group documents. If you wish to suggest amendments / additions or remove anything from an existing document or to post a new one, please forward those details to a group administrator who will do this for you.

- If you think someone is using the site inappropriately, please do not accuse him or her publicly on the site – please contact an administrator by private message as soon as you can instead.
- The admin group reserves the right to remove a member from the group if they persist in contravening these guidelines. We hope we won't have to do this!