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**Use of Parents’ WhatsApp groups for the classes at Homerton Early Years Centre**

**Acceptable Use Agreement**

At Homerton Early Years Centre, Parent Governors and Class representatives, in their personal capacity as serving governors, manage separate WhatsApp groups for each class and provide an opportunity for parents / carers to join the group for their class so they can:

* *Get to know other families who have children in their class and connect with them*
* *Make social or practical arrangements together*
* *Share information as appropriate e.g. reminders of timings of school events*

In order to facilitate this opportunity and to ensure equality of access for families to these WhatsApp groups, Homerton EYC will allow parent governors and class representatives to display the QR codes, which allow families to join the groups, in the classrooms or at the garden gate. Staff agree to share these QR codes with families so they can take advantage of the opportunity to be part of the group.

By joining any of these WhatsApp groups parents are agreeing to the following terms of use which will be posted in the group description of each group. Parents will be informed of this at the point of joining and by an email from Homerton Early Years Centre, which will explain the purpose of the setting up of the WhatsApp groups as well.

“By joining this WhatsApp group for the families in my child’s classroom at Homerton Early Years Centre I am agreeing to:

* Use positive, polite and friendly language
* Adhere to the stated intentions of the WhatsApp group
	+ *Get to know other families who have children in their class and connect with them*
	+ *Make social or practical arrangements together*
	+ *Share information as appropriate e.g. reminders of timings of school events*
* Behave in a respectful manner when participating in a class group chat and be sensitive to the tone of posts as well as the content
* Refrain from sharing any confidential information e.g. photos or personal details of children
* Refrain from posting comments concerning individual pupils, families or staff members
* Any complaints are best addressed with the school directly initially and can be brought to the attention of staff or the headteacher who will address them in accordance with school policies.”

Parent Governors and class representatives reserve the right to remove posts which are deemed to contain inappropriate material, in line with their role as data controllers. The **Use of Professional Social Media Accounts Policy** expands further on what constitutes inappropriate content.

Should the above community norms be violated, Parent Governors and class representatives, as the administrators of the groups, are required to act and will notify the school so the school can contact parents directly to resolve matters. In such circumstances, posts may be deleted and, if appropriate, individuals may be removed from the group. Furthermore, Parent Governors and Class representatives reserve the right to close group chats down should this be considered the best course of action.

Reviewed September 2024

Next Review September 2026