

Perth Waldorf School - Class WhatsApp Group Guidelines

Class WhatsApp groups and similar online forums can be valuable tools for parents and carers. They allow for the easy sharing of official information, organizing class events and building community. However, if these groups are used for sharing personal views, airing grievances, or seeking opinions on concerns they can quickly turn into a digital "rumour mill." This can create false impressions, stir up emotions and unsettle parents who are not directly involved. The rapid spread of opinions online can cause harm that may be difficult to reverse, especially when teachers—who are often not part of these groups—are unaware of the growing concerns.

To maintain a positive and respectful online environment, it is essential that these groups are monitored by the class carer and used appropriately.

At Perth Waldorf School, we have a **Grievance and Concern Policy**. When class-related issues arise, the first step is to have a conversation with the class teacher. Try to approach the conversation with curiosity and a collaborative mindset, aiming to resolve issues together.

Social Media Conduct Expectations at PWS

When using social media, including WhatsApp groups, all members of our school community are expected to:

- Refrain from posting or responding to content that is offensive, obscene, defamatory, threatening, harassing, bullying, discriminatory, hateful, violent, racist, sexist, infringing on copyright, or otherwise unlawful.
- Maintain appropriate personal and professional boundaries.
- Use the technology responsibly and respectfully
- Ensure that your online behaviour reflects the same honesty, respect and consideration as expected in face-to-face communication.
- Respect the privacy and confidentiality of others. Always seek permission from other parents before posting, sharing or tagging images that include their children.
- Ensure that all content posted is accurate and not misleading.
- Reflect on how your post may impact your personal and professional character, as well as the wellbeing of others.
- Think carefully before posting.

Please refer to the **Perth Waldorf School Code of Conduct for Parents** (available on our website) for more detailed guidelines.

Even with the strictest privacy settings, what is said online can still be shared more broadly. Therefore, all community members are responsible for their posts, regardless of privacy settings or intentions.