

WhatsApp Group Policy

Aim of the PFA moderated Parent WhatsApp Year Groups:

To provide a platform for parents to socialise and support each other – a ‘virtual school gate’. Ten years on and the work continues every day to bring our Wilsonian community together.

1. Wilson’s PFA was formed in 2012 and registered as a charity in April 2017. The PFA was formed to raise funds and to encourage and develop our Wilsonian community. The PFA works in conjunction with the Head, Mr NJ Cole.
2. The PFA Team does not get involved in the running of the school. If you have any concerns about school, please communicate them directly to the school.
3. The PFA Team are not an appointed body of parents and do not act as parent representatives (Parent Governors). They are all volunteers and give up their own time to fundraise and support the school community.
4. School related information may be posted on relevant year groups, but the PFA is not responsible for providing notifications of school events. Please consult the school calendar for accurate and up-to-date information.
5. The comments and views posted on the Wilson’s WhatsApp groups by PFA members belong to the individual posting the comment and are not a representation of Wilson’s School.
6. PFA Members currently manage and moderate ten WhatsApp Parent Year Groups (one per current Year Group & three for Old Boys who left Wilson’s in 2021, 2022 & 2023). The number of groups will increase by one each year as the Year 13 group become Old Wilsonian Parents and a new Year 7 group joins. Maintenance of the leavers’ groups is minimal and usually just promoting events and updating school news which may be of interest.
7. Temporary groups may be created for specific events e.g., Swimathon, Charity walks. These groups will be terminated after each event has been completed.
8. Wilson’s parents can join their respective Year groups by filling in the online google form on PFA’s website. (<https://wilsonspfa.org/subscribe>)
9. The PFA moderated WhatsApp groups are for Wilson’s parents only. Anyone found not to be a Wilson’s parent will be removed from the group immediately.

Parents who join any of the Wilson’s WhatsApp groups must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Please refrain from using profanity.
2. Be respectful to others at all times.
3. Do not monopolise the group by relentless posting. Whenever possible, be brief and keep your messages to the point and relevant to Wilson’s school.
4. Disrespect towards people’s race, culture, religion or sexual orientation will be considered to be a serious breach of Wilson’s WhatsApp group guidelines and will result in expulsion from the group.
5. In the event of someone posting hateful or abusive messages, please do not respond. Report it immediately to the moderators.
6. Please do not spam. Do not forward messages you have received just for the sake of continuing a chain.
7. Messages instigating political debate or religious hatred will not be tolerated. Sharing such messages will result in expulsion from the group.
8. Please do not share any messages promoting businesses and commercial enterprise.
9. Targeting a captive audience to advance personal agendas (e.g., pressurising other parents to sign a petition, fill in surveys, advertising personal businesses etc. without prior consent of the PFA) will not be tolerated. Sharing such messages will result in expulsion from the group.
10. Posting messages in order to spread negativity and/or anxiety will not be tolerated. Sharing such messages will result in expulsion from the group.

11. If there is a need to speak to a specific person, please message that person privately (outside the group) rather than speaking to them on a group chat. The exception to this being if it is a reply to a previous post which is of continuing interest to the group.
12. Ultimately, the WhatsApp groups are intended to be a social place which is safe and pleasant for everyone. Anyone who repeatedly flouts the guidelines will be subject to warnings from the moderators with eventual expulsion from the group in question. If expelled, the PFA reserves the right to refuse access to subsequent WhatsApp groups.

This policy was last reviewed on: Monday, 15th January 2024