

Policy on Spectators Attending School Sporting Fixtures

2026/27

Proposed By: ...*PATRICK GILSENAN*.....

Seconded By: ...*AOIFE SMITH*.....

Board of Management Meeting

Date: 22.09.2026



Castlepollard Community College

Policy on Parent/Guardian Attendance at School Sporting Fixtures on School Property

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate parents/guardians and invited spectators who wish to attend school sporting fixtures while ensuring the safety, wellbeing, and supervision of all students and maintaining the orderly operation of the school.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all parents, guardians, family members, and other spectators attending sporting events or matches held on school grounds during or outside normal school hours.

3. General Principles

The school welcomes the support of parents and guardians at sporting events and recognises the positive impact such support can have on students' participation and enjoyment in sport.

All visitors to school property are expected to:

Respect the school's ethos and values.

Promote positive behaviour and sportsmanship.

Comply with school policies and the instructions of school staff.

Conduct themselves in a manner that ensures the safety and wellbeing of all students and visitors.

4. Access to School Property

Spectators may attend only those matches or sporting events that are open to parents/guardians.

Access is limited to designated viewing areas.



Spectators may not enter changing rooms, team meeting areas, classrooms, corridors, or other student areas unless expressly authorised by school management.

The school reserves the right to restrict or refuse access where necessary for safeguarding, health and safety, or operational reasons.

5. Safeguarding and Supervision

Responsibility for supervising students remains with the school's designated staff and coaches.

Parents/guardians attending a fixture are spectators only and must not assume responsibility for students other than their own child unless specifically authorised by the school.

Parents/guardians must not approach or enter areas designated for students or school personnel.

Any safeguarding concern observed by a spectator should be reported immediately to a member of staff.

6. Behaviour Expectations

Spectators are expected to:

Encourage all participants positively and respectfully.

Respect the decisions of referees, officials, coaches, and teachers.

Treat students from all schools with dignity and respect.

Always use appropriate language.

The following behaviours are not permitted:

Abusive, offensive, or aggressive language.

Verbal or physical intimidation of students, officials, staff, or other spectators.

Entering the field of play without permission.

Interfering with the management of the fixture.

Consumption of alcohol or use of illegal substances on school grounds.

7. Photography and Recording

Parents/guardians should respect the privacy and safeguarding rights of all students.



Photography and video recording should be limited to personal use.

Images or videos of students other than a parent's own child should not be published on social media or shared publicly without appropriate consent.

School staff may prohibit photography or recording where safeguarding concerns arise.

8. Parking and Traffic Management

Visitors must park only in designated areas.

Emergency access routes must always remain clear.

The school accepts no responsibility for loss, theft, or damage to vehicles or personal property.

9. Health and Safety

Spectators must follow all health and safety instructions issued by school staff.

In the event of an emergency, visitors must comply immediately with directions from staff or emergency services personnel.

Children accompanying spectators remain the responsibility of their parent/guardian at all times.

10. Breach of Policy

Failure to comply with this policy may result in:

A verbal warning.

A request to leave the school grounds.

Restriction of attendance at future school events.

Referral to relevant authorities where behaviour gives rise to safeguarding, safety, or legal concerns.

Parent Code of Conduct (Summary)

By attending a school sporting fixture, parents and guardians agree to:

Support all participants positively.



Respect officials, coaches, and staff.

Remain in designated spectator areas.

Follow school safeguarding and health and safety procedures.

Use photography and social media responsibly.

Leave the grounds if requested by school management.

"The welfare and safety of all students is the school's paramount consideration."

11. Review

This policy shall be reviewed periodically by the Board of Management and updated as required.

Approved by: Board of Management

Date: _____

Review Date: _____



