



Parent Code of Conduct

Working in Partnership

The College values the important role played by parents/carers in their child's education. Given the clear benefits of positive parental engagement in student learning, the College places great emphasis on working in partnership with parents/guardians to ensure that a child's learning journey is positively supported.

This Code has been developed so that the College's parents/carers are aware of and meet the College's expectations with regard to their interaction with the College, its teachers, other parents/guardians and students. Adherence to this Code is important to promote positive and productive relationships within the College community.

The College is responsible for establishing and administering the policies, procedures and rules which govern the day to day operations of the College. It is important that parents/guardians and their children respect and adhere to the College's requirements and support the College's decisions.

Failure to Observe this Code

If a parent/guardian fails to observe this Code after being warned about a breach, the College may:

- limit access to a teacher or teachers;
- limit access to College premises or College events; or
- terminate the enrolment of the student.

Discipline

The College expects students to comply with its rules and not engage in behaviour which is harmful to others or is contrary to the ethos of the College. Parents/guardians are expected to support the College in relation to its discipline practice and not do anything which undermines its authority. Parents/guardians should not direct their child to neglect or avoid a set disciplinary consequence.

It must be understood that in the case of minor disciplinary matters, the College will be the arbiter of what is a fair punishment and will not engage in debate about the appropriateness of the consequences. In relation to more serious disciplinary matters which may result in suspension or expulsion, the College will inform parents/guardians of the matter which will be dealt with in accordance with the College's disciplinary practices. While parents/guardians will be consulted, the final decision will be the College's.

At no time is it appropriate for parents to address a disciplinary matter with a child other than their own, on College grounds or at College events.

Interaction with Staff

It is important that parents/guardians show respect for staff and not publically criticise them or undermine their authority. If a parent wishes to make a complaint, they should not use rude or abusive language or behaviours. This is not productive and can make it harder to resolve concerns. Communications whether verbal or in writing with other members of the College community whether teachers, administration staff, other parents/guardians or students should:

- show respect, courtesy and consideration;
- not harass or bully another person;
- not use intemperate language; and
- not be confrontational.

The College has a duty of care towards all staff and for this reason any aggressive or abusive behaviour will not be tolerated.

The College conducts regular meetings between staff and parents/guardians at which the student's progress can be discussed. If a parent wishes to discuss an issue with a staff member, they should make an appointment so that a mutually convenient time can be arranged. This can be done through either contacting the teacher directly or through the College office.

Parents/guardians should never attempt to contact a staff member on their personal phone number other than in exceptional circumstances.

Parents/guardians can also make an appointment to see the Principal about any particular concerns they may have relating to their son or daughter.

Process for Raising Issues and Concerns

If a parent/guardian has an issue on any matter they should first seek to resolve this with the staff member responsible for the particular area of activity. Where the matter remains unresolved, parents/guardians should escalate their concern to the staff member's team leader.

Academic and Co-Curricular Culture

The College exercises careful and considered judgement when making decisions about student achievement and student participation in broader College life. It is not appropriate for parents/guardians to criticise the College's class allocation or co-curricular selection processes beyond reasonable inquiry. Further, should parents have concerns about the awarding of grades, they are to raise these respectfully with staff via email or by making an appointment to discuss the area of concern.

Parents/guardians are welcome to attend College events (e.g. assembly, chapel, sport, drama, etc) when invited by the College.

Restraint should be exercised when supporting College sporting teams. In particular, parents/guardians should not abuse, threaten or otherwise seek to intimidate an umpire or referee or direct abuse against a player or any College representative. Sports coaches pick College teams based on their view of the most appropriate selection at the relevant time. It is not appropriate for parents/guardians to complain about the failure of their son or daughter to be picked for a particular team beyond reasonable inquiry.

Use of Technology and Social Media

Parents/guardians should not post photographs or video content of College events on social media where children other than their own are featured. Parents/guardians should not photograph and post soft or hard copy information received from the College on social media where other children's details are visible. Parents/guardians should exercise judgment when posting comments about the College, its staff or other families on social media. Social media should not be used to criticise or denigrate others in our College community. Parents/guardians should not download/copy images or information from the College's parent portal for personal use or sharing.

Separated Parents/Guardians

The College is aware that some students have parents/guardians that are separated or divorced. In these cases, parents/guardians should not attempt to involve the College in any parental dispute that may arise. The College is not able to make judgments on the merits of claims made by one parent against another and should not be asked to do so. Nor should it be asked to take any action which is designed to disadvantage one party. The College will observe any orders made by a Court in relation to a student or communications with parents/guardians. As a general rule, the College is required to communicate with biological parents as requested on matters concerning their child.

The College reserves the right to alter this Code of Conduct at any time in its absolute discretion.