

St Joseph's School Community Code of Conduct

Policy

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1. Policy Statement

Our School is a place that promotes values that are in keeping with the School's Vision.

All students, parents, teachers and staff have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in their school community.

With this right comes the responsibility to be law-abiding citizens and to be accountable for actions that intimidate or put at risk the safety of others or oneself. This includes behaviour that may be considered antisocial.

For the purpose of this Code of Conduct the School Community comprises the parish priest, principal, staff, coaches, parents, guardians, step-parents, relatives, friends, supporters, carers and invitees of the School, who attend at the School, or elsewhere, for the purposes of visiting, viewing, participating, supporting or being present for any educational, official, sporting or social activity held by or for the benefit of the School and its students.

The St Joseph's School Community Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour that are expected of members of the School Community. It specifies the consequences for any member of the School Community who does not comply with those standards of behaviour, whether those persons are on the School's property, in transit or at another location for the purpose of any School authorised events or activities.

2. Background

The following are the principles that provide the framework for this Code of Conduct:

- All members of the School Community are to be treated with respect and dignity.
- Responsible citizenship involves appropriate participation in the civic life of the School Community. Active and engaged members are aware of their rights but, more importantly, they accept responsibility for protecting their rights and the rights of others.
- Members of the School Community are expected to use non-violent means to resolve any conflict.
- Insults, disrespect, and other hurtful acts and comments disrupt learning and teaching in the School Community, and are a direct contradiction to the School's Mission and Values. Members of the School Community have a responsibility to maintain an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterised by respect and civility to all others.

Parents play an important role in the education of their children and have a responsibility to support the efforts of School staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Parents fulfil this responsibility when they:

- Show an active interest in their child's schoolwork and progress;
- Communicate regularly with the School;
- Help their child be neat, appropriately dressed and prepared for School;
- Ensure that their child attends School regularly and on time;
- Promptly report to the School their child's absence, late arrival or early departure;
- Become familiar with the School Community Code of Conduct;
- Work with School staff in dealing with disciplinary issues.

3. Standards of Behaviour

As a minimum, all members of the School Community are expected to behave with respect, civility and in the manner of a responsible citizen.

As a minimum, all School Community members must:

- Respect and comply with all applicable Commonwealth and State laws;
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity;
- Respect differences in people, their ideas and opinions;
- Treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and especially when there is a disagreement;
- Respect and treat others fairly, regardless of their race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability;
- Respect the legal and moral rights of others;
- Show proper care and regard for School property and the property of others;
- Take appropriate measures to help those in need;
- Respect persons who are in a position of authority;

- Respect the need of others to work in an environment of learning and teaching.

4. Scope

The St Joseph's School Community Code of Conduct is intended to provide members of the School Community with guidelines for the effective development of positive relationships within the School Community and, as expressed in the introduction, to assist in promoting the values that are in keeping with the School's Mission.

This document is then essentially a guide for all members of the School Community about the standards of behaviour which are acceptable in the School environment or when attending any official, religious, social or sporting function or activity of or relating to the School or in any location at which the School is represented. It includes insults, disrespect, and other hurtful acts and comments on any social medium or any technology that may disrupt learning and teaching in the School Community, and are a direct contradiction to the School's Mission and Values.

Although guardians, stepparents, relatives, friends, supporters and carers of students at the School are not a party to the School's Enrolment Agreement, this St Joseph's School Community Code of Conduct is a guide for them about expected standards of behaviour.

5. General Conduct

School Community members are expected to:

1. Support the Principal and School staff in the development of a Christ-centred learning community based upon our Catholic ethos,
2. Support the School's policies,
3. Acknowledge that the Principal has the ultimate responsibility to implement these policies,
4. Work with the School teaching staff to deal promptly with areas of concern,
5. Treat all members of the School Community with respect and courtesy, and
6. Acknowledge and affirm success in individual and School achievement.

6. Physical Safety

In particular, all School Community members must not:

- use any object (whether as a weapon or otherwise) to threaten or intimidate any other person;
- cause injury to any person by the use of any such object.

All School Community members must not:

- be in possession of, or under the influence of, or provide others with, alcohol or illegal drugs. The exception(s) is when, in the normal course of events, the School is providing hospitality to members or guests of the School community and is in keeping with appropriate legal and hospitality regulations.

All School Community members must:

- not cause, inflict or encourage others to verbally abuse, threaten or inflict bodily harm on another person by any physical aggression;
- seek staff assistance, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully.

7. Co-curricular Activities

This part of the School Community Code of Conduct deals specifically with attendance at co-curricular activities. The following are statements of principle with which School Community members are expected to comply:

1. Young people are involved in co-curricular activities principally for their enjoyment.
2. Students should always be encouraged to play by the rules.
3. Young people should be taught that honest effort is as important as victory, so the results of each game are accepted without undue disappointment.
4. Turn defeat into victory by helping young people work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Never ridicule or yell at any student for making a mistake or losing a game.
5. Young people learn best by example. Applaud good play by both the School team and by members of the opposing team.
6. Do not publicly question the referee or game official's judgement and never his/her honesty.
7. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from co-curricular activities.
8. Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches, managers and referees. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for all students.
9. Do not approach a referee or game official at any stage during or immediately after a fixture.

8. Responsibility for other Community Members

Any parent or School Community member who invites a relative, friend, support, carer or other person to be present at any official sporting or social activity held by or for the benefit of the School and its students must at all times be responsible for that person and ensure they act at all times in a manner consistent with this Code of Conduct.

9. Breach of this Code of Conduct

The consequences to a member of the School Community for breaching this Code of Conduct will be as determined at the Parish Priest and Principal's absolute discretion. These consequences include any one or more of the following:

1. The School may ban any member of the School Community from attending at any co-curricular activity.
2. The School may ban any member of the School Community from being on the School grounds in general.
3. The School may direct that any parent may only communicate with members of teaching staff through a nominated School representative.
4. In the case of extreme or prolonged breach of this Code of Conduct by a parent, the School may terminate the enrolment of the child of that parent.
5. The School may take such other steps as it may in its reasonable discretion determine appropriate according to the nature of the breach.

10. Right of Appeal

Any decision made in consultation by the Parish Priest and Principal under this Code of Conduct is final.

11. Evaluation

This Policy will be reviewed every two years.

Approved by the St Joseph's School Advisory Board in 2013. Renewed 2017