



SCHOOL COMMUNITY CODE OF CONDUCT

"The Catholic school sets out to be a school for the human person and of human persons. The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: this is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school"
(Vatican Congregation for Catholic education, 1997, n. 9)

To believe in a Father who loves all men and women with an infinite love means realizing that "he thereby confers upon them an infinite dignity"
(Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 2013, n. 178)

STATEMENT OF CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

St Joseph's School is faithful to the School's Mission Statement, Diocesan policies and to the requirements of the Catholic Church.

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 moral citizens and to be accountable for actions that put at risk the safety or wellbeing of others.

Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to anyone who is part of the St Joseph School Community is contrary to the beliefs of the school.

This School Community Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour which are expected of members of the School Community in the School environment or when attending any School related function or activity at any other location.

The Code specifies the consequences for any member of the School Community who does not comply with these standards of behaviour.

TO WHOM DOES THIS POLICY APPLY?

For the purpose of this Policy 'School Community' comprises the Principal, staff, coaches, employees, students, parents, guardians, step-parents, relatives, friends, supporters, carers and invitees of the School, when in the School environment or when attending any School related function or activity at any other location. It should be noted that more detailed requirements of staff, volunteers dealing with children and students are outlined in other policies.

Parents/guardians and students agree to be bound by the School Community Code of Conduct when they enrol their children in St Joseph's School. Although step-parents, relatives, friends, supporters and carers of students at the School are not a party to that Enrolment Agreement, this School Community Code of Conduct is a guide for them about expected standards of behaviour.

WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD CONDUCT?

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

Our Christian obligation involves appropriate participation in the life of the School. Active and engaged members of the community are aware of their rights but, more importantly, accept responsibility for protecting their rights and the rights of others.

Insults, disrespect and other hurtful acts are disruptive and are a direct contradiction of the School's Catholic values.

Members of the School Community have a responsibility to develop and maintain an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterised by respect, civility and dignity.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PARENTS?

Parents/guardians are the first educators of their children. They have a responsibility to support the efforts of the School in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Parents fulfil this responsibility when they:

Show an active but non-invasive interest in their child's school work and progress-

Communicate regularly with the School in a way that is constructive and supportive of their child/ren and the work of the school. All communication written and verbal is to be courteous in its form and content, even when conveying concerns or issues that the writer feels needs addressing.

- Help their child/ren be neat, appropriately dressed and prepared for School;
 - Ensure that their child/ren attends School regularly and punctually;
 - Promptly report to the School their child's absence or late arrival.
 - Become familiar with the School Community Code of Conduct and School Rules;
 - Encourage and assist their child/ren in following the standards of behaviour; and
 - Work with the School in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child/ren.
 - Do not intrude into the working space of the school in a way that distracts students or interrupts the learning of either their child or others.
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- Encourage their child/ren to understand the importance of education and reinforce the school's inculcation of the values of hard work and self-discipline.
- Reinforce the importance and value of both academic and practical pursuits.
- At no times behave in a threatening, intimidating or violent fashion towards other members of the school community.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

All School Community members must:

- Accept that the use of swearing, derogatory terms, sexual jokes, innuendo and other inappropriate language in the School environment or around students will not be tolerated;
 - Ensure that their relationships with students are strictly in accordance with appropriate roles and that favouritism and special treatment are avoided;
 - Respect diversity in people, their ideas and opinions 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 and treat them with dignity, civility and respect at all times, and especially when there is a disagreement;
 - Show proper care and regard for School property and the property of others
 - Take appropriate measures to help those in need;
 - Support the School's Policies
 - Acknowledge that the Principal is responsible for implementing School Policies and has responsibility for the behaviour and management of all activities on the school site.
 - Work with the School in a reasonable fashion to deal promptly with areas of concern;
 - Acknowledge and affirm success in individual and School achievement; and seek staff assistance, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully.
 - Be supportive of the school and its program. This does not preclude having and raising reasonable concerns/issues about particular matters, however, if a member of the community has wide ranging difficulties with the direction,
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ethos or management of the school, they need to reflect on their continued involvement with the school.

- Ensure that physical contact with students is appropriate given the age of, and relationship with, the student such that questions of impropriety do not arise;
- Respect and comply with all applicable Commonwealth and State laws;
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity;
- Be particularly responsible in displaying courtesy and obeying road and traffic regulations whilst on school property or access routes.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEMBERS MUST NOT:

- Use any object (whether as a weapon or otherwise) to threaten or intimidate any other person;
- Cause injury or possible injury to any person by the use of any such object;
- Verbally abuse, threaten or inflict bodily harm on another person by any physical aggression or encourage others to do so; or shout, either in person or over the telephone;
- Post inappropriate material on Social Networking sites that would be considered to be bullying, harassment or demeaning;
- Be in possession of, or under the influence of, or provide others with, alcohol or illegal drugs. The exception is when, in the normal course of events, the School provides hospitality to members or guests of the School Community in keeping with appropriate legal and hospitality regulations;

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR GUESTS

Any School Community member who invites a relative, friend, supporter, carer or other person to be present at any School related function or activity at any location must be responsible for that person and must ensure that they act at all times in a manner consistent with this Code of Conduct.

COMMUNICATION OF POLICY INCLUDING KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

St Joseph's School will ensure that all relevant stakeholders are aware of their responsibilities as stated in this policy.

CONSEQUENCES OF A BREACH OF THIS POLICY

The consequences to a member of the School Community for breaching this Code of Conduct will be determined by the Principal in accordance with the St Joseph's School Complaints Policy and may include one or more of the following:

- The School may ban any member of the School Community from attending any Extra -curricular activity;
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- The School may ban any member of the School Community from being on the School grounds in general;
- The School may direct that any parent may only communicate with members of staff through a nominated School representative;
- 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;
- The school reserves the right to take any necessary actions to ensure that members of the school community are not subjected to abuse. Actions such as these could result in the police being called;
- School premises are private property and parents have been granted permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, the school may ban parents from entering school grounds. Actions such as these could result in the police being called; and
- It is also an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1997 for any person (including a parent) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist in removing the person concerned.

Please note that the Catholic School's Office (Wagga Wagga) will be informed of any breach of this policy.

Reviewed 2018
