

Student Code of Conduct Policy

Classification: Students

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Review and Responsibility

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1.0	May 2024	Approved by the Executive Team

Grace Christian School has high expectations of all our students and provides them with outstanding education opportunities in a safe, supportive, positive, and welcoming school environment and encourages students to participate, develop and learn to reach their full potential.

Our mission is to:

- encourage students to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ;
- develop lives of character based on biblical principles;
- equip young people to be salt and light within the community;
- develop the highest expression of an individual's gifts, talents and abilities;
- assist parents in the education of their children;
- pursue excellence in education; and
- provide resources, facilities and staff to implement the vision

Students can be confident that the school puts their best interests first and their safety and wellbeing is the centre of thought, values, and actions. The school is a child safe organisation where students' rights, needs and interests are met and where all students are protected from harm.

The Student Code of Conduct sets out the minimum standards of conduct expected of students attending the school. It guides student behaviour, establishes expectations for personal boundaries and clearly delineates appropriate and inappropriate behaviour in relation to staff, other students, and other members of the school community. It also explains the process when students have concerns about breaches or behaviour.

1. Rationale

School Registration Standard 10 – Child Abuse Prevention, requires the school to implement a code of conduct for students which is consistent with the Example Code of Conduct (Australian Human Rights Commission) and the National Child Safe Organisation Principles.

In consultation with students, develop and regularly review the Student Code of Conduct with guidelines on how to comply which:

- Sets out minimum standards of conduct.
- Prohibits bullying, harassment, and other forms of peer-to-peer abuse.
- Requires respect for the privacy and human dignity of other students.

The School will respond appropriately to complaints and allegations of breaches of the Student Code of Conduct in the best interests of students and in accordance with policies and procedures. This includes providing support services and reporting to responsible government authorities.

2. Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to:

- Reach their full potential in a safe, supportive, and positive environment.
- Feel safe physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
- Be treated with respect, courtesy and kindness by other students, teachers, and adults at the school.
- Express ideas and opinions in a positive way.
- Be heard.
- Be treated fairly, consistently, and justly.
- Have their privacy, human rights, and other legal rights respected.
- Have their personal boundaries respected.

With rights come responsibilities; students have a responsibility to:

- Understand the standards and expectations of their conduct and behaviour as stated in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Be aware of the process if these standards and expectations are not met.
- Uphold the values and respect the Christian ethos of the school including conduct outside the school.
- Build positive relationships with peers and staff that reflects respect and assists in building a positive school culture.
- Take responsibility for their own learning, to work consistently and complete tasks as required.
- Enable others to learn in a safe, supportive, positive, and welcoming environment.
- Always follow the school's policies, procedures, and the directions of teachers.
- Treat others with respect, courtesy, and kindness.
- Respect the human rights, dignity, and legal rights of others.
- Be tolerant of differences such as race, culture, religious affiliation, and ability.
- Not engage or participate in bullying, harassment, exclusion, intimidation, discrimination, aggressive behaviour, or other forms of student-student abuse.
- Respect the privacy and personal boundaries of other students and staff.

3. Student Conduct

Examples of expected student conduct is outlined in more detail below. Students are expected to:

- Actively participate in the learning process.
- Refrain from distracting behaviour that interrupts the work of the class or hinders learning opportunities for other students.
- Always follow teacher instructions, class rules, and expectations.
- Submit assessment tasks on time, unless unforeseen or exceptional circumstances arise.
- Ensure their activities are conducted safely and don't place others at risk of harm.
- Be punctual and attend all classes.
- Remain at the school during the school day unless otherwise approved or permitted.
- Attend compulsory school functions and events such as Easter services, swimming and athletics carnivals, award nights, camps, and work experience.
- Treat all school staff, other students, and visitors to the school with courtesy, tolerance, and respect.
- Always use polite and respectful language.
- Respect the privacy of others by not sharing personal information, photos or videos without their consent or agreement.
- Respect School property and the property and belongings of staff and other students.
- Uphold the reputation of the school by demonstrating appropriate standards of behaviour in transit to and from the school and when wearing school uniform.
- Always dress properly and neatly in the school uniform according to the Uniform Policy.

Students are not to:

- Engage in plagiarism or other academic misconduct; students must not present anyone else's work as if it were their own.
- Engage in any form of cyber bullying or cyber abuse.
- Behave aggressively towards another student or any other person or cause them to act inappropriately.
- Intimidate, coerce, or threaten anyone or make anyone afraid of being harmed themselves or by someone else.

- Physically, psychologically, emotionally, or mentally bully, or harass another student or any other person.
- Engage in any form of physical or verbal abuse or violence including fighting, assault or threats of abuse or violence.
- Discriminate against others based on race, gender, religion or disability.
- Engage in any form of sex, or act of a sexual nature with another student or any other person on School grounds or during school-related activities.
- Engage in sexual misconduct towards another student or person or sexually harass any other person.
- Physically touch or engage with students or others in a manner which is not appropriate and may cause physical, psychological, or mental harm or injury to that person.
- Engage in behaviours that are intimidating, abusive, disrespectful, or threatening including sexual harassment with another student or any other person.
- Send inappropriate, offensive, or explicit text messages, photos, or videos of themselves or any other person.
- Use inappropriate or profane words or gestures and images towards others.
- Bring, use, or be in the possession of, any illicit substances including alcohol, cigarettes, vape products or other drugs, prohibited or otherwise, on school grounds and at any School function.
- Be in a classroom, workshop, or gymnasium etc. unless accompanied by a teacher.
- Damage, steal or misuse any school property or the property of other students or staff.
- Enter, use, or interfere with any School property or enable, or cause, any other person to do so, without authorisation from the school.

If you are unsure about what is the right thing to do in any circumstance, you are encouraged to ask advice from a teacher.

4. Reporting Behaviour

If you are concerned about the health, safety and wellbeing of another student please have a conversation with your Head of Student Management. Reporting can be done verbally, written or by electronic means.

5. Discipline

The Student Code of Conduct is enforced as the minimum standard of discipline and self-discipline for every student and should be read in conjunction with the School's Discipline Policy. Behaviour contrary to the Student Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action including (but not limited to) suspension or exclusion. Students should understand that serious offences such as assault, theft, wilful damage, and other unlawful activities are likely to result in exclusion.

Students and / or parents / guardians will be given the opportunity to appeal the outcome of any disciplinary action.

In accordance with the applicable legislation and the School's Child Protection Policies, the Police and / or the Department of Communities – Child Protection and Family Support will be informed of any unlawful breaches of the Student Code of Conduct.

6. Student Complaints Process

Students who have a concern or complaint are encouraged to have a conversation with any staff member they are comfortable with, trust, or feel safe to speak to.

If the staff member is unable to resolve their issue, then they may lodge a complaint with the school.

Refer to the Complaints Management Policy (R/10/2466) and student complaints flowchart. We take all reports seriously and commit to dealing with your complaint according to the School's Complaints Management Policy.

7. Child Safe

Grace Christian School implements the National Child Safe Organisation Principles. The school explicitly forbids the use of any form of child abuse, corporal punishment or other degrading punishment and provides clear guidance to all members of the school community about what forms of behaviour management, discipline or punishment are permitted.

The administration of permitted forms of behaviour management, discipline or punishment conforms to the rules of procedural fairness and non-discrimination.

8. Related Documents

Appendix 1: K-2 Student Code of Conduct – R/16/4908

Appendix 2: 3-12 Student Code of Conduct – R/19/840