



2.1.6 Code of Conduct – Parents, Guardians and Visitors

The purpose of this Policy is to promote positive engagement within our College community. Meaningful engagement is linked to improved student outcomes.

Rationale

Parents and Guardians play a formative role in the development of their child's sense of justice, equity, and the dignity and worth of all members of our community. They also act as one of the most influential role models within a child's life, therefore the onus for promoting and upholding the core values of our school community must fall on all those with the greatest capacity to reason and control their actions.

At South Coast Baptist College, we are committed to ensuring a respectful learning environment that is safe, positive, and supportive for all students, staff, families, and visitors. It is a clear expectation of the College community that all parents and guardians must model acceptable behaviour, actions and communication protocols.

The purpose of this Policy is to clearly articulate a code to parents, guardians and visitors to the College regarding the expected standards of conduct required to maintain a safe and positive environment for our school community.

Expected Actions of Parents/Guardians

All parents are expected to abide by the action statements outlined in this document and ensure the behaviours they model are appropriate and in-line with College expectations.

- 1. Support your child in all their educational endeavours by giving praise and showing interest in their school activities.**
 - Help your child to discover that it is often the process experienced rather than the end product that makes it all worthwhile.
 - Giving of your very best is what matters rather than always comparing yourself against the capabilities of others.
- 2. Ensure all children have the right to feel safe at school.**
 - There may be times when you feel that the actions of another child have infringed upon the rights of your own child.

- Under no circumstances are you to approach another child whilst they are in the care of the school; to discuss or chastise another student because of their actions towards your own child. It is appropriate to approach the Classroom Teacher, Coordinator, Head of Year, relevant Deputy, Head of School or College Principal to seek their intervention in bringing about an equitable and peaceful solution to the situation.
 - Accept that bullying has no place within our community and as such will not be tolerated. This is as true for adult-to-adult interaction as it is for child-to-child interactions. Instances of bullying must quickly be brought to the attention of the school staff so that justice may be achieved for all involved in the conflict.
- 3. Be positive.**
- We all have bad days, and at times, events occur which do not always appear fair. However, it is often the case that the injustice was not intentional, and many times not even apparent to others. Always approach these situations in a spirit of co-operation and genuine partnership. It is amazing how easily and quickly most situations can be resolved.
- 4. Show awareness that a child's perception is different from an adult's due to developmental maturity.**
- A child is not necessarily lying when their story conflicts with another or when the teacher's perspective does not match what you have been told at home. Children see their world through their own limited experiences, which colour their perceptions.
 - Adult perceptions are balanced with life experiences. Listen to your child as they tell you their "reality," but remember that a different "reality" may exist elsewhere. Open, honest discussion with school staff is essential in these situations.
- 5. Understand that children may and do act differently at home and school.**
- When faced with an audience of their own peers often children will act/react in a way which appears completely out of character to you and the saying "My child wouldn't do that," might not hold for all situations.
 - Be open to all possibilities.
- 6. Protect the College's and people's good name.**
- Problems, differences of opinion and personality clashes are not resolved by involving other people in a disagreement or by taking sides in an argument.
 - Attempt to resolve these issues through calm dialogue between the parties directly involved, whilst respecting the dignity of each person and the College in situations that may arise.
- 7. Separate opinion from fact.**
- An approach to the relevant personnel within the school to verify the factual basis of a story can assist in allaying your fears of an event in question and the intent of those involved.
- 8. Actively listen to another's point of view.**
- It may be that the perspective from which you are approaching the situation is foreign to the other party and their perspective may be equally of value.
- 9. Follow correct procedures in times of conflict to ensure all parties are heard and for harmonious solutions to be reached.**
- If the conflict centres on a classroom issue, your first approach should always be to the relevant classroom or specialist teacher.
 - If a resolution is not reached, then it is appropriate for you to involve the school administration.
 - Should the matter result from a situation outside of the classroom, then it is appropriate to discuss it with a member of the school administration in the first instance.
 - If you remain dissatisfied with the result, then your next step should be to follow the College's Complaint Policy which is located on the College's website at the following location: www.scbc.wa.edu.au/contact/

10. Parking with consideration and respect for others when delivering and collecting children from school.

- The Code of Conduct for Parents and Guardians also includes parking on College premises.
- Disabled and Reserved Parking places should only be used by those who are authorised to do so.
- Parents and Guardians are expected to abide by the School Parking Policy and display respectful, polite behaviour to other drivers around the school.

Social Media

Social media sites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Principals, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. The use of social media websites in this way is unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community.

Any concerns you have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to a Teacher, Head or Deputy Head of School or the College Principal so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately, and effectively for all concerned.

In serious cases, the College will consider legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, and more importantly, is the issue of cyber bullying. Public humiliation of another by inappropriate social network entry will be dealt with as a serious incident of bullying.

To support a peaceful and safe school environment, the College does not tolerate any person who.

- Sends abusive, threatening, discriminatory, malicious, or inflammatory emails, phone messages or social network posts.
- Uses loud and/or offensive/profane language, gestures and images or displays of temper.
- Shows disruptive behaviour which interferes with the operation of a classroom, an office area, or any other part of the school grounds.
- Threatens to cause harm or to use physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes approaching someone else's child to discuss or chastise them (*Please note actions such as these may constitute an assault with possible legal consequences.*)
- Damages or destroys school property.
- Theft, fraud, or misuse of College resources.
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on College grounds, attending social, sporting, or other College functions whilst intoxicated or under the influence of illicit drugs or other substances harmful to health.

The above behaviours on school premises will be reported to the relevant Head of School, the College Principal and if deemed necessary, the appropriate authorities.

The result may include prohibiting an offending adult from attending College functions and activities, entering the school grounds or the termination of a family's enrolment at the College, to safeguard other community members.

Reviewed: 26/06/2021

Next Review Date: Term 2, 2023