



PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY 2020

Parent Code of Conduct

St. Michael's College is a school community, built on Christian values, that nurtures individuals and inspires quality learning.

College Values

We believe that the primary overarching purpose of the College is learning for all and that through mutual respect and caring everyone is able to strive in dignity towards achieving their full potential.

Respect - We respect ourselves, others, property and our college's history and traditions. We respect the rights of teachers to teach and students to learn. We are aware of the diversity of others and include them and their cultures with understanding and tolerance.

- *Responsibility* - We will fulfil our responsibilities at home, at school and in the community and are accountable for what we say and do, accepting the consequences for the decisions and choices we make. We resolve differences in a constructive, non-violent and peaceful way and take care of our environment.
- *Care and Compassion* - We care for others and ourselves through the use of good manners, sharing our knowledge and creating friendships based on consistency between words and deeds.
- *Co-operation* - We work together to reach goals by doing our share of the work, helping one another and working together with patience and tolerance.
- *Honesty and Trustworthiness* - We strive to be honest, sincere and truthful knowing that healthy relationships are based on trust.

Scope

This policy applies to all adults including parents, caregivers, step-parents, grandparents, extended family, care-givers and any others while involved in activities or communication related to St. Michael's College. For the purpose of this policy, the term "parent" refers to all caregivers as listed above.

Purpose of Parent Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Parent Code of Conduct is to:

- provide a set of general principles to guide parents in their interaction with staff, students and other parents; and
- communicate St. Michael's College expectations as to how parents conduct themselves when on College grounds or at College events;

What is expected of Parents at St. Michael's College

Parents play a key role in the education of their children and should act in the best interests of students, their families, staff and the College community. Parents are students' most significant role models. Accordingly, the College expects a high standard of personal behaviour from parents when they are on College grounds, attending events or communicating with staff or other students. For example:

- Refraining from engaging in malicious or judgmental gossip (either directly, electronically or on social media), and ensuring that anything they say about others is fair and truthful.
- Refraining from actions and behavior that constitutes bullying, harassment, discrimination or vilification.
- Refraining from offensive, insulting or derogatory language or conduct. This includes wearing clothing with offensive language or insignias.
- Dressing appropriately according to the occasion.
- Not smoking on College grounds or within 5 metres of the College boundary. (This is a Queensland law requirement).
- Not possessing alcohol on College grounds, unless the event has been sanctioned by the College.
- Not attending College events if affected by alcohol or any other intoxicant.
- Showing proper care and regard for College property, the property of others and Occupational Health and Safety considerations.

Communication and Interaction with Staff, Other Parents and Students

Parents are expected to interact civilly with staff, students and other parents at all times. Written and spoken communication should be courteous and respectful. Abusive language, raising your voice, insulting or violent behaviour to anyone on College grounds or at any College-related event, is not appropriate.

Parents are expected to 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.

Whilst interaction between students can be unruly it is not appropriate to discipline another parents' child whilst on the College grounds.

In some circumstances, parents are required by law to advise the College of areas of potential conflict, such as parenting and family court orders. The College expects parents to behave lawfully on College grounds and observe the terms of any order, obligation or undertaking they may be subject to.

What parents can expect from a staff member if communication becomes inappropriate

In cases where a parent does not interact civilly with staff, either in person or outside of the College grounds, during a phone call or via email, the staff member may take one of the following actions:

- Request that the parent cease their inappropriate communication in order to allow the communication to proceed.
- Inform the parent that unless the inappropriate communication ceases, the staff member may put an end to the phone call, meeting or discussion.
- Request another staff member be present for the remainder of the meeting, if deemed necessary to proceed with such.
- Lodge a complaint against the offending parent.
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What parents can expect from the College

The College takes seriously any issues that are brought to its attention. If parents express their concerns to the College, they can expect to be treated with courtesy and respect in order to try and resolve the matter. As a general guide, minor issues can be raised with your child's teacher. Cases of more serious inappropriate conduct or misconduct should to be directed to the Deputy Principal or Principal. Each situation will be considered as it arises and based on the issues. The College will act in accordance with its Dispute Resolution (Complaints) Policy when dealing with complaints.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct

With these guidelines in place it is hoped that parents can appropriately direct their concerns and contribute to a harmonious college community that reflects and builds on the College's values.

The consequences for breaches of this Code of Conduct will be determined by the Principal and may include one of the following:

- The School may ban a parent from entry to College grounds (in accordance with the Education (General Provisions) Act or from attending College events.
- The College may direct that a parent may only communicate with members of staff through a nominated College representative.
- In cases of extreme or prolonged breach of this Code of Conduct by a parent, the College may terminate the enrolment of the child of that parent.
- The College may, where appropriate, involve other authorities.
- The College may take other such steps as it deems appropriate according to the nature of the breach.

Policy Release Details

Date of Policy:	Jan 2020	Supersedes:	Previous
Authorised by:	Principal	Date of Authorisation:	Feb 2020
Review Date:	Annually	Next Review Date:	Feb 2021
Policy Owner:	St. Michael's College.		