

Code of Conduct

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"Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic School. His revelation gives new meaning to life and helps man/woman to direct his/her thoughts, actions and will make The Beatitudes according to the gospel, his/her norm of life. The fact that in their own individual way, all members of the school community share in this Christian vision, makes the school "Catholic". Principles of the gospel, in this manner, become the norms, since the school then has them as its internal motivation and final goal."

'The Catholic School" Para 34.

The Beatitudes should be evident within our school community by the way we aspire to show each other the Gospel values of Love, Justice, Respect, Forgiveness, Compassion, Dignity, Service, Truth, Honesty and Acceptance. St John's School environment should reflect the fact that people care about the community in which they work and learn.

St John's Mission Statement states: **"Students will be guided towards responsible self-direction"**

Our students will be challenged to accept responsibility for their choices of action in their daily school life. In being held accountable for their actions, students will be led towards self-discipline which will be reinforced by the firm direction and guidance of school staff as necessary.

Throughout this process of emerging self-discipline however, St John's School asserts that parents are ultimately responsible for the actions and behaviour of their children, and that the cooperation of parents is at all times essential in the effective application of this discipline policy. In the event of a conflict between standards, the school's standards and codes of behaviour will prevail during all school activities. Codes of acceptable behaviour will be set out by the school Principal, in consultation with staff as he/she sees necessary, in order to establish the climate within which self-discipline can evolve. Affirmation and encouragement will be given for goodwill, effort and achievement, and conversely, unacceptable behaviour will be discouraged. Where cases of unacceptable behaviour occur, appropriate action will be taken.

Attendance

The legal responsibility for a child's attendance at school is parental. When a child attends school, the school assumes a legal duty of care. The following procedures are necessary to ensure that the legal responsibilities of both parents and the school are met. Each day that a Parent/ Guardian/Carer(s) realizes that his/her student will be absent from the school, the school is to be telephoned before the first lesson begins at 8.20am. If a telephone call has not been received the school will ring to confirm that the student is absent. Any absent student is to bring a note from their Parent/Guardian/Carer(s) explaining their absence and noting the duration of the absence. They are to give this to their teacher on their return to the school.

Acceptable Reasons for Absence

These include illness, injury, carrying an infectious disease, accidents or other unforeseen circumstances. A calendar for each term and the term dates are included in this diary. Parents are strongly requested to plan family holidays in the context of the school dates, and not to request extension of term holidays for your students. The granting of such requests disadvantages the student's academic progress, disrupts classes and is unjust to those students who observe stated holidays.

The following list is seen as **UNACCEPTABLE** reasons for absence: students not wishing to participate in particular school activities (eg Masses, retreats), study, working on assignments, employment or assisting with family business.

Expectations of Student Behaviour

The day to day functioning of St John's School involves teaching and learning. These functions must be able to take place without interruption or interference from misbehaving, unco-operative or disruptive students. The rights of students to learn and teachers to teach, in a positive atmosphere of co-operative endeavour, are fundamental to the school's

philosophy which encompasses equality of opportunity for all students to learn and experience success.

The expectations for students as detailed in this section of St John's Discipline Policy are designed to facilitate healthy and productive student/staff and student/student interactions and to state clearly the manner of acceptable behaviour that will be expected of all students. These expectations apply during school hours, while going to and from school, on school sponsored activities outside normal school hours, and on any occasion when the students are wearing the school uniform.

While allowance will be made for flexibility of approach when addressing the needs of any possible situation, the rights of individuals in the St John's community, as identified above, will be upheld. In instances where students do not meet the school expectations of them, action will be taken to ensure fair and just solutions.

Students are expected to participate in the school's Religious Education Program, including school/class Masses, liturgies, retreats and prayer gatherings. Opportunities are provided by the school for student involvement in Sacramental Programs which are now Parish based. Positive witness to the Catholic Church's beliefs and values is strongly endorsed as the foundation of all endeavours within the school.

Students are expected to behave in a courteous, co-operative and considerate manner at all times. This expectation is an essential prerequisite to the maintenance of acceptable standards in the conduct of the school's operations. Offensive or obscene language, used verbally or in writing, and the verbal or physical abuse of others, will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to be honest in their dealings with each other and with all other members of the general community.

Students are expected to respond promptly and politely in following directions or instructions from school staff members throughout the daily operations of the school. Insolence or wilful disobedience is unacceptable.

Students are expected to make consistent and genuine efforts in pursuing their school studies to the best of their ability. To ensure the best possible levels of success and achievement, active student involvement in conscientious scholastic endeavour is a fundamental goal of St John's School.

Students are expected to be punctual in all matters related to their studies and to daily school routines. This applies to the completion of class work tasks, homework, projects and assignments as required, along with the due regard for being punctual to daily school activities and other school-related activities.

Students are expected to show respect for the rights, wishes and opinions of others within the school community through their daily actions at school. For St John's School to be successful in its mission, all members of the school community, staff members, students, parents and others who take part in the daily interactions of the school, must contribute to the practice of mutual respect.

Students are expected at all times to practise respect for property. This will extend to their own and others' personal property as well as the school's property. In instances where wilful damage occurs to others' personal property or to school property, parents or guardians will be notified and will be expected to pay for, or contribute towards, the replacement or repair of the property concerned.

Students are expected to meet high standards of cleanliness and tidiness. This applies to the students' personal presentation, hygiene practices, the students' lockers and desks. Students are also expected to contribute, as required, towards clean and tidy classrooms and work areas, school buildings, verandahs, port racks and school grounds.