



# SCHOOL COMMUNITY CODE OF CONDUCT

## Rationale

At Berwick Lodge Primary School we promote the values that are in keeping with school's mission statement. 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 law-abiding citizens and to be accountable for actions that intimidate or put at risk the safety of others or oneself. This includes behaviour that may be considered anti-social.

For the purpose of this Code of Conduct "School Community" comprises the principal, staff, coaches, parents, guardians, step-parents, relatives, friends, supporters, carers and invitees of the school, who attend at the school, or elsewhere, for the purposes of visiting, viewing, participating, supporting or being present for any official, sporting or social activity held by or for the benefit of the School and its students. (There is a separate "Student Code of Conduct" that all applies to all students from Prep to Grade 6.)

The School Community Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour that are expected of members of the school community. It specifies the consequences for any member of the school community who does not comply with those standards of behaviour, whether those persons are on the school's property, in transit or at another location for the purpose of any school-authorized events or activities.

## Aims

For all members of the school community:

- to be treated with respect and dignity
- to be safe and feel safe
- to behave with respect, civility and in the manner of a responsible citizen.

## Implementation

This Code of Conduct is a guide for all members of the school community about the standards of behaviour that are acceptable in the school environment or when attending any official, social or sporting function or activity of or relating to the school or in any location at which the school is represented.

As a minimum, all school community members must:

- Respect and comply with all applicable Commonwealth and State laws
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity
- Respect differences in people, their ideas and opinions
- Treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, especially when there is a disagreement
- Respect and treat others fairly, regardless of their race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnicity, origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability
- Respect the legal and moral rights of others
- Show the proper care and regard for school property and the property of others
- Take appropriate measures to help those in need
- Respect persons who are in position of authority
- Respect the need of others to work in an environment of learning and teaching
- Not cause, inflict or encourage others to verbally abuse, threaten or inflict bodily harm on another person by any physical aggression or any other forms of bullying
- Not use any object to threaten or intimidate any other person
- Not cause injury to any person by use of any object
- Not be in the possession of, under the influence of or provide others with, alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Seek staff assistance, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully.
- No parent or guardian should ever directly approach a student regarding a conflict. If a parent or guardian has a concern, always seek staff assistance.

### *Co-curricular Activities*

This part of the Code of Conduct specifically deals with attendance at co-curricular (eg: sport, drama, music) activities. The following are statements of principle with which our school community are expected to comply:

- Students should always be encouraged to play by the rules
- Young people should be taught that honest effort is as important as victory, so the results of each game are accepted
- Never ridicule or yell at any student for making a mistake or losing a game
- Remember that young people learn best by example. Applaud good play by both the school team and by members of the opposing team
- Do not publicly question the referee or game official's judgement or his/her honesty
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from co-curricular activities
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches, managers and referees.

## *Social Media*

This part of the Code of Conduct specifically deals with the use of social media (eg: Facebook, Twitter) by the school community. The following are guidelines with which our school community are expected to comply:

- Do not use social media to intimidate, threaten or bully
- Do not cause, inflict or encourage others to verbally abuse
- Do not use social media to promote personal agendas
- Do not use social media to convey disparaging remarks about the school

## **Breach of this Code of Conduct**

The consequences to a member of the school community for breaching this Code of Conduct will be determined at the Principal's discretion. These consequences include any one or more of the following:

- The school may ban any member of the school community from attending any co-curricular activity
- 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 the teaching staff through a nominated school representative.
- The school may take such other steps as it may determine appropriate according to the nature of the breach.

## **Date Passed by School Council**

The School Community Code of Conduct Policy was passed by School Council in 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

## **Review Period**

The Management Sub-Committee will be responsible for coordinating and planning the review of the School Community Code of Conduct policy, under the auspices of School Council. The Policy will be reviewed every three years.