Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

Student Code of Conduct

St Catherine's Primary School is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS).

Purpose

St Catherine's Primary School is committed to ensuring a respectful learning environment that is safe, positive and supportive for all students at the school.

It is the intention of St Catherine's Primary School to provide clear guidelines to all students regarding the conduct expected of them while in a school environment, at school related locations or engaging in school-related activities or representing the school. Students are expected to uphold the school's core values at all times.

Scope

This Code of Conduct applies to all St Catherine's Primary School students. The application of this code is not limited to the school site and school hours. It extends to all activities and events that are school-related and when representing or acting on behalf of the school, including, without limitation, at all times when wearing the school uniform.

The code also requires that student actions do not bring the school into disrepute at any time, regardless of whether the action occurs within or outside of school activities.

Principles

This Code of Conduct is based on the following principles that everyone at St Catherine's Primary School

- has the right to be safe
- has the right to be treated with respect and be valued, even in diversity
- has the right to participate within a secure environment without interference, intimidation, harassment, bullying or discrimination
- is encouraged to be respectful, polite, courteous and considerate of others
- has the right to be supported and challenged as ongoing learners.

Expected conduct and bearing of all students

It is expected that every student will:

- uphold the school's core values at all times
- behave in a manner that does not endanger the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves or others
- abide by all health and safety rules and procedures operating within the school and other locations at which the students may visit
- ensure that their actions do not bring the school into disrepute
- respect the authority of members of staff and observe school rules and teacher directions as required
- strictly adhere to the ICT Acceptable Usage Policy and User Agreement
- be respectful and supportive of the school's beliefs and values
- behave with courtesy and consideration for others

- refrain from all forms of bullying, harassment, racial vilification, and discrimination of any nature
- report any behaviour of other students that is harmful to other students, or to the teachers or school
- support other students, or seek help for other students who need assistance or are in a vulnerable situation
- refrain from behaviour which would interrupt the work of any class or hinder the learning opportunities of other students
- respect school property and the property of staff, contractors, visitors and other students
- be punctual and attend all classes
- remain in the school grounds during the school day unless otherwise approved by the principal
- complete work set by teachers promptly and to the best of their ability and to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered at the school
- dress neatly and with due regard for health, hygiene and safety in accordance with the school's uniform requirements.

Unacceptable conduct

Unacceptable conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- touching, handling, pushing or otherwise physically or sexually engaging with students or others in a manner which is not appropriate and may endanger the health, safety and wellbeing of that person
- any form of physical or verbal violence (including fighting, assault, or threats of violence, bullying, name calling, racial discrimination or discrimination on grounds of disability, appearance, or religion)
- any form of cyber bullying or cyber abuse
- theft or misuse of property belonging to other students or the school
- sending inappropriate, offensive, or explicit text messages, photos, or videos
- language or conduct which is likely to offend, harass, bully, or unfairly discriminate against any student, teacher, contractor or visitor
- the use of inappropriate or profane words or gestures and images
- unacceptable class attendance levels
- being uncooperative with teachers during class or school activities and generally disrupting planned activities.

Supporting positive behaviour

The Student Behaviour Policy is based on a model of positive behaviour support. This is a model that acknowledges the positive behaviour of the majority of students and puts strategies into place to model and specifically teach expected behaviours. It targets focused support, including staged sanctions, for the minority of students that do not embrace positive behaviour.

Breach of the student code of conduct

Students who breach this code of conduct may be sanctioned by the class teacher or school principal as deemed appropriate given the nature of breach and the age of the student.

In cases of serious and/or persistent breaches of the student code of conduct, the Student Behaviour Policy outlines the consequences for student misbehaviour. The St Catherine's Primary School policies and procedures for the Suspension, Negotiated Transfer of Students, and the St Catherine's Primary School Expulsion of Students outline the management of suspension and expulsion, and appeals processes.

In accordance with applicable legislation and the school's Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, the police and/or 'Families and Children's Services' within the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP), and/or any other relevant bodies will be informed of any unlawful breaches of this code.

Student Code of Conduct	
Name of student	
Date	
Signature of student	
Signature of parent / guardian / carer	
Date	

Policy information table

Responsible director	Director, Learning and Regional Services
Policy owner	General Manager, Learning Diversity
Approving authority	Executive Director
Assigned board committee	Education Policy and Strategy
Approval date	10 May 2023
Risk rating	High
Date of next review	May 2025
Publication details	CEVN, school website

POLICY DATABASE INFORMATION	
Assigned Framework	Enrolment of Students
Related documents	Enrolment Agreement Enrolment Policy
Superseded documents	School Student Code of Conduct – v1.0 – 2021
New policy	