

Parents/Carers – Respectful Behaviours Policy

Date Approved:	20/06/2023
Scheduled Review Date:	30/06/2026
Policy Owner:	Principal

1. Context & Purpose

The College has a responsibility to provide a positive learning environment for students, where they feel safe and supported. It has a range of strategies and policies to achieve this outcome.

One important consideration is the development of positive relationships between staff, students and parents/carers, as we believe this is fundamental to building and sustaining student engagement and wellbeing.

College staff also have a right to feel safe at work and to be treated fairly and with respect, even when there are differences of opinion, or a matter arises that causes disagreement.

This policy outlines the role parents/carers can play to create a positive environment for learning and outlines the College's expectation with respect to parent/carer behaviour.

2. Application

The expected standards of behaviours for parents/carers apply to different College settings. This includes on College premises or at College events, camps, excursions, activities, as well as online and social media settings.

3. Statement of Policy

The College believes that a positive environment is important because everyone has the right to be safe and supported at the place they learn or work. The whole College community, but particularly staff and parents/carers, play a role in making our College a better place for learning and work.

The College's objective is to ensure that a collaborative, trusting and respectful relationship exists between College staff and parents/carers. Respectful behaviours are important as they build strong, healthy and thriving school communities. The foundation for this type of relationship is based on:

- open and honest communication
- trust and respect
- working together

- everyone having fair and reasonable expectations.

The College and staff are committed to engaging with parents/carers about their child's education and working with them to achieve the best outcomes or address any concerns that may arise. The College has expectations that parents/carers will also engage in the right manner. The sections that follow explain the expectations in more detail.

4. General Expectations

Parents/carers are expected to create a positive environment for learning and work by:

- modelling positive behaviour to their child/children and to the College community
- communicating politely and respectfully with all members of the College community
- working with teachers and staff to achieve the best outcomes for their child/children, including raising any concerns about their child's learning or wellbeing
- communicating constructively with the College
- making use of the expected processes and protocols when raising concerns
- following the College's processes for communication with staff and making complaints, and do so in a constructive and courteous manner
- treating all College staff, students, and other members of the school community with respect.
- observe College's Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, and adhere to the expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of other students
- respect differing points of view and engage in any matters of disagreement in a constructive, courteous and respectful manner
- respect and comply with reasonable requests and directions from the Principal and other members of staff;
- raise any behavioural, bullying or peer group issues with a member of the teaching staff and allow College staff to deal with these issues
- Respect the time of teachers needed for classroom matters and teaching by:
 - refraining from interrupting or distracting a teacher while classroom or learning activities are being conducted
 - being patient with teachers, allowing them a reasonable period to respond to calls and emails unless there is a genuine emergency

5. Unacceptable Behaviour & Consequences

When a small number of parents and carers behave unacceptably towards a staff member or another member of the College community, this can affect their health, safety and wellbeing. The impact can also be felt by the wider College community.

Unacceptable or unreasonable behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- being violent or threatening violence of any kind, including being physically intimidating, using aggressive hand gestures or invading another person's personal space
- speaking or behaving in a rude, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via email, social media, or over the telephone
- sending demanding, rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- discriminatory or derogatory comments
- the use of social media or public forums to make inappropriate, threatening or defamatory remarks about the College, staff or students
- engaging in gossip and making false or misleading comments about the College, staff or students or other parents/carers

If a parent or carer behaves in an unacceptable way, the Principal may contact them to talk about this further and possible consequences. This may include:

- requesting that the parties attend a mediation or counselling sessions
- conditions of entry to College premises or College activities
- exclusion from attending College premises or College activities
- reports to Victoria Police
- legal action.

6. Policy History

Version	Policy Owner	Approval Date	Summary of Changes
1	Principal	20/6/23	First Adopted