



## **CODE OF CONDUCT- PARENT**

### **Rationale**

Parents play a formative role in the development of their child's sense of justice, equity, as well as the dignity and worth of all members of our school community. They also act as one of the most influential role models within a child's life, therefore the onus for promoting and upholding the core values of our school community must fall on all those with the greatest capacity to reason and control their actions. It is a clear expectation of the community that all parents model acceptable behaviour at all times within the school setting.

At Pioneer Village School (PVS) we are very fortunate to have supportive and friendly parents. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between home and school and understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school. The purpose of this policy is to inform all parents and visitors to our school about expected conduct so that we can work together to ensure a safe and positive school environment for our children.

### **Application**

For the purpose of this Code 'School Community' comprises of parents, guardians, stepparents, relatives, extended family, friends, supporters and carers, when in the school environment or when attending any school related function or activity at any other location, and when on school related websites and social media. Parents and guardians agree to abide by all policies, procedures, and guidelines, including this Code of Conduct when signing the Enrolment Contract. Although step-parents, relatives, extended family, friends, supporters and carers are not a party to that Enrolment Contract, this Code of Conduct is a guide for them about expected standards of behaviour.

### **General Conduct**

School community members agree to:

- Act in accordance with all school policies, procedures and guidelines;
- Show an active and non-invasive interest in their child's school work and progress;
- Work with the teaching staff to deal promptly with areas of concern;
- Treat all members of the school community with respect and courtesy;
- Ensure that their child is appropriately dressed and prepared for school each day;
- Promptly report to the school their child's absence or late arrival;
- Not smoke nor consume of alcohol or other drugs on school property, nor access the school site whilst intoxicated;
- Work with the school in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child;

- Not publish photos of other children on social media without express permission from the child's family;
- Observe confidentiality in respect of all information gained through participation in school activities. All information held by schools is handled with care and individuals must not discuss nor disclose personal information about other students, staff or students' parents/guardians; and
- Not behave in ways that a reasonable person would consider to be offensive, intimidating, humiliating, aggressive, threatening or abusive.

Any parent or guardian who invites a relative, friend, supporter, carer or other person (adult or child) to be present at any school related function or activity at any location must be responsible for that person and must ensure that they act at all times in a manner consistent with this Code.

### **Expected Parent Outcomes**

All parents are expected to abide by the action statements below to ensure the behaviours they model are appropriate at all times.

#### **Support your child in all their educational endeavours by giving praise and showing interest in their school activities.**

Help your child discover that often the learning process is more valuable than the end product; that giving of your very best is what matters rather than comparing yourself against the capabilities of others.

#### **Ensure all our children have the right to feel safe at school.**

There may be times when you feel that the actions of another child have infringed upon the rights of your own child. ***Under no circumstances is a parent or guardian to approach another child whilst they are in the care of the school to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards their own child.*** It is appropriate to approach the class teacher in the first instance to seek their intervention in bringing about an equitable and peaceful solution to the situation. If the issue is not resolved then the Concerns and Complaints Policy can guide further actions.

Accept that bullying (refer to Anti-Bullying policy for correct definition) has no place within our community and as such behaviours will not be tolerated. This is also as true for adult-to-adult interaction as it is for child-to-child interaction. Instances of bullying must quickly be brought to the attention of the school staff so that a resolution may be achieved for all involved.

#### **Always be positive.**

We all have bad days and, at times, events occur which don't always appear fair. However, it is often the case that the injustice was not intentional, and many times not even apparent to others. Always approach these situations in a spirit of co-operation and genuine partnership. It is amazing how easily and quickly most situations can be resolved.

#### **Show awareness that a child's perception is not the same as an adult's due to developmental maturity.**

A child is not necessarily lying when their story conflicts with another or when the teacher's perspective does not match what you have been told at home. Children see their world through their own limited experiences, which colour their perceptions. Adult perceptions are balanced with life experiences. Looking through the 'lens' of a child is important when dealing with children's issues.

Listen to your child as they tell you their "reality", but remember that a different "reality" could possibly exist elsewhere. Open, honest discussion with school staff is essential in these situations.

**Understand that children may and do act differently at home and school.**

When faced with an audience of their own peers often children will act/react in a way, which appears completely out of character to you and the saying "My child wouldn't do that", might not hold for all situations. Be open to all possibilities.

**Protect people's good name.**

Problems, differences of opinion, and personality clashes are not resolved by involving other people in disagreements, issues, or by taking sides in an argument. Always attempt to resolve issues through calm dialogue between the parties **directly involved** whilst respecting the dignity of each and every person. The school will not involve third parties in discussions regarding other people's children and it is expected that families do the same. Maintaining each and every person's privacy and protecting people's good name is of utmost importance.

**Separate opinion from fact.**

An approach to the relevant personnel within the school to verify the factual basis of a story can assist in allaying your fears of an event in question and the intent involved.

**Actively listen to another's point of view.**

It may be that the perspective from which the parent is approaching the situation is foreign to the other party and each may be equally of value.

**Follow correct procedures in times of conflict to ensure all parties are heard and for harmonious solutions to be reached.**

If the conflict centres on a classroom issue, the first approach should always be made with the classroom teacher. If a resolution is not reached then it is appropriate to refer to school policies, procedures and/or guidelines for guidance. These can be found on the website.

**Be aware of other's privacy when using social media.**

Social media websites are being used increasingly to share information. Families may not post photos or information regarding other people's children without express permission of the child's parents and guardians. It is imperative the school community is mindful of how they use social media in respect to information sharing.

In serious cases of misuse of social media the school may have to consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse. Cyber bullying and the use by any member of the school community to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry will be dealt with as a very serious matter.

**Parking with consideration and respect for others when delivering and collecting children from school.**

Parents are expected to abide by the Car Park Guidelines which can be found on the PVS website. Respectful, polite behaviour to other drivers around the school is expected at all times.

We trust that parents, carers and visitors will fully support this *Code of Conduct* to ensure a positive environment for all.

## Breaches of the Code of Conduct

Members of the school community have a responsibility to develop and maintain an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterised by respect, civility and dignity.

The consequences for breaching this Parent Code of Conduct will be determined by the Principal and/or Board in accordance with the PVS Complaints Management Policy.

Consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- escalation to School Board
- prohibiting a member of the school community from attending any extra-curricular activity
- prohibiting a member of the school community from being on campus
- directing a parent/guardian to communicate with members of staff through a nominated school representative
- refusing to permit a student to continue at PVS or withdrawing a student from PVS if the partnership between the parent and PVS breaks down
- taking other steps that the school, at its reasonable discretion, determines are appropriate according to the nature of the breach in the partnership.

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