

St Joseph's Primary School, Laurieton

POLICY: *School Student Code of Conduct*

Reference Code: 002-05

St Joseph's Primary School believes that the school is a place of education where each child has the right to learn and grow in a supportive Christian environment among people who are caring and cooperative. The Code of Conduct has been formulated with this in mind. The school's Wellbeing Program ensures that appropriate behaviour is taught not as a separate curriculum item but as an integral part of the teaching process. The Code of Conduct will be monitored, evaluated and updated on a regular basis through the annual review process.

We believe that students will achieve their personal best in a school where community members work together to build and maintain a caring and cooperative environment. The Codes of Practice for all school community members ensure that high standards are sought and expected and reinforce the ideals of partnerships in education. The School Student Council and the Parish School Forum provide avenues for involvement in collaborative decision making across the school.

St Joseph's has developed a welfare program which focuses on primary prevention and early intervention strategies. Students participate in comprehensive skill-based programs which include strategies on assertiveness, conflict resolution, anger management and peer mediation. These programs aim to develop and promote resiliency and the enhancement of positive social behaviours and relationships. Students are further enriched through participation in the school's peer support program, camps, excursions and inter-school sporting events.

The **Code of Conduct** is based on a set of rights and their related responsibilities. To ensure that students understand their rights and responsibilities, the school teaches the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities as a primary prevention strategy.

All students have the **right** to:

- be treated with courtesy, kindness and respect
- express feelings and opinions assertively
- work and play in an atmosphere of harmony and cooperation
- feel secure and to be safe in a caring and supportive environment
- expect that school rules are fair, consistently implemented and respect the rights of all involved
- be valued for their individuality, including that of race, gender, cultural, physical or intellectual diversity
- learn in a supportive atmosphere

The following **responsibilities** support these rights:

- treat others with courtesy, kindness and respect
- listen to others with mutual respect
- maintain a safe and secure school environment
- model and support school rules
- develop responsibility for their own actions
- value others, for their individual differences
- work to achieve personal best whilst allowing others to do the same

School Rules

All school rules at St Joseph's Primary School are developed in consultation with students, stated in the positive and are linked to the principles and practices outlined in the school's wellbeing and discipline program. To ensure students understand and follow school rules, all teachers are expected to reinforce the rules through appropriate strategies that teach the necessary skills and processes:

Communication (how students speak and listen)

- We use "I" Statements
- We listen to others and try to empathise with them.
- We talk and discuss instead of yelling and arguing.
- We make our words and body language match in an assertive way.
- We use each other's names.

Settling Conflicts (how conflicts are to be resolved)

- We try to solve our problems so that everyone wins.
- We let people know how we feel about something.
- We apologise if we hurt someone's feelings.
- We can make the rules up for a game before we start, to make it fair for everyone.

Movement (how movement occurs within the classroom and around the school)

- We walk in the classroom and around the school buildings.
- We respect people's personal space when we are moving around the school.

Safety and Security (how we keep ourselves safe)

- We stay inside the school boundaries during school hours.
- We are careful when we play on the play equipment.
- We wear a hat to play in the sun.

Learning (how students are actively involved in their learning)

- We help each other in the classroom and in the playground
- We stay on task and concentrate on our own work
- We work to achieve our personal best

Treatment (how all community members will be treated)

- We make people feel welcome
- We stay calm and rational when resolving problems
- We cooperate when we play and we are caring of each other
- We respect each other and each other's property
- We have responsibilities that are linked to our rights

Logical Consequences

A key component of the school's Positive Discipline program is teaching about and using *logical consequences* to address behavioural problems. A logical consequence is based on goodwill and not retaliation. It is concerned with present and future behaviour and differs from punishment in that logical consequences are:

- Related to the behaviour
- Respectful of all parties
- Reasonable expectations
- Relationship-building

Ongoing behaviour of a more serious nature will involve the use of a range of strategies, as set out in the school's discipline policy. These may include:

- discussing the behaviour problems with the student and reaching an agreement for future behaviour
- monitoring and providing feedback to students on their behaviour
- allowing the student a "cooling off" period using a non-judgmental approach
- providing counselling and training sessions for individuals to modify inappropriate behaviour
- involving parents/caregivers to assist with modifying behaviour
- seeking support and guidance from relevant departments and agencies
- implementing procedures for more serious offences as outlined in DET and CEO guidelines.

CLASSROOM RULES

Each class is responsible for discussing and developing a set of rules. These will enable each member of the class to learn in an environment which is free from disruption. The class rules will be supported by a set of consequences to be implemented by the teacher after consideration of the behaviour. The rules and consequences are displayed in each classroom.

SCHOOL RULES

The following is a summary of the school rules. These can be read in more detail in the Discipline Policy.

The following behaviours will not be tolerated:

- fighting, bullying, verbal abuse, answering back, harassment or disruptive behaviour

For reasons of safety and consideration of others the following behaviours are not acceptable:

- playing with or throwing of dangerous objects (sticks, stones etc.)
- riding of bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades in the school grounds
- climbing of trees, buildings
- disregarding property, including school buildings
- bringing toys to school including walkmans, Nintendo games and (eg basketball) cards
- the use of dangerous toys
- bringing containers made from glass to school
- chewing gum
- leaving the school grounds without permission
- being in school buildings without teacher supervision
- “hands on” behaviour
- excluding others from games
- swearing and other offensive language
- littering

School uniform is compulsory, as is the wearing of hats in support of the school's Sun Smart Policy.

This policy was developed by the staff and students of St Joseph's and formally adopted in March, 2005.