



Student Code of Conduct

1. Background

At The Little Yarra Steiner School we value respectful relationships and a shared responsibility for our learning environments. Our policies relating to student behaviour ensure our learning spaces are friendly, equitable and safe places to learn and grow.

Social and learning guidelines are a key part of creating a positive and consistent learning environment for all students. Teachers wishing to establish expectations for their classroom or playground area will use this Code of Conduct and ensure that their expectations and sanctions are appropriate to the age, ability and developmental stage of their students. The focus and intention of our Student Code of Conduct is to foster the progressive and age appropriate development of self-discipline in the students. Procedural fairness is to be observed at all times, and the school will ensure that the application of policies relating to student behaviour is fair, consistent and non-discriminatory.

Consequences for disruptive, unsafe, off task or disrespectful behaviour will be appropriate to the child and in proportion to the behaviour. Sanctions must be fair, reasonable, proportionate and consistent. Staff will use a restorative approach that focuses on repairing the harm and damage done through inclusive processes that engage all those concerned. A restorative approach shifts the focus from punishment to learning and from the individual to the community.

The Little Yarra Steiner School absolutely prohibits the use of corporal punishment under any circumstances.

This Code of Conduct should be read in conjunction with the Behaviour Management Policy and is available to new parents as part of the enrolment process and also on the school's website. The expectations of this Code are communicated to students in an age appropriate manner by their teachers.

Teachers are strongly advised to give students a clear statement of their expectations concerning classroom behaviour, and to demand high standards of behaviour from students at all times. Action which may be taken by classroom teachers includes reprimands, warnings and isolation of students within the classroom, detentions organised by the teacher or extra work. Classroom teachers may wish to contact parents to discuss their child's behaviour directly. Students may be sent out of the room for brief periods of time or the student may be sent to the office. Serious misconduct may result in suspension or expulsion. More information regarding behaviour management strategies and consequences can be found in the Behaviour Management Policy.

2. Aims

Our aim is to develop behaviour that enables children to live in a responsible and constructive way.

Specifically, this code of conduct aims to promote the following values:

- a considerate attitude towards all people that seeks to understand the situation of others
- the adoption of a co-operative attitude and to work with courtesy and respect with all other people
- to communicate openly and honestly with others
- to work out of reverence for the world and its inhabitants
- to take responsibility for our actions

3. Unacceptable Behaviours

These are behaviours that are not acceptable in our School, and will result in the application of the processes outlined in the Behaviour Management Policy, including suspension or expulsion at the discretion of the Principal. Unacceptable behaviour includes, but is not limited to:

- Bullying and harassment of any sort: bullying, harassment, dangerous behaviour (real, perceived or threatened) towards another person, fighting, violent behaviour, use of language, gestures or conduct likely to offend, including touching, handling, pushing or otherwise physically or sexually engaging with anyone in a manner which is not appropriate and may endanger the health, safety and wellbeing of that person;
- any form of cyber bullying or cyber abuse, including sending inappropriate, offensive or explicit text messages, photos or videos;
- language or conduct which is likely to offend, harass, vilify or unfairly discriminate against any student, teacher, contractor or visitor, including the use of inappropriate or profane words, gestures and images, including on clothing or belongings;
- theft, fraud or misuse of School resources;
- litter, graffiti, vandalism or any damage to or destruction of School property or the belongings of others;
- unacceptable class attendance levels, punctuality or preparedness for lessons;
- incomplete work, assignments or homework, plagiarism or cheating, disruption of own or another's learning, failure to meet deadlines or adhere to assessment rules and procedures;
- disobedience, uncooperative behaviour or refusal to comply with a reasonable request from a staff member;

- Smoking, including e-cigarettes or vaping, consuming alcohol or illicit drugs, carrying weapons or committing arson or gambling at School, on School camps or excursions, in transit between School and home or otherwise while engaged in a School activity.

4. Rights and Responsibilities

Management and staff have a responsibility to

- implement the Code of Conduct and related policies fairly, reasonably and consistently.

Teachers have a right to

- expect the co-operation of students,
- expect that they will be able to teach in an orderly and co-operative environment,
- expect the support of other staff and the School administration in fulfilling their professional duties,
- maintain flexibility in their approach to classroom procedures and organisation within the framework of school policy.

Teachers have a responsibility to

- treat students fairly and consistently,
- provide an appropriate range of learning strategies,
- undertake a pastoral role towards students when appropriate,
- develop in students an awareness and understanding of school rules,
- follow the agreed policies and procedures of the school regarding student management,
- communicate with parents and guardians on matters relating to the educational development and behaviour of their children.

Students have a right to

- feel safe within the school,
- learn in a challenging environment to the best of their ability,
- be treated with dignity, fairness and respect by other students and teachers,
- be listened to.

Students have a responsibility to

- accept school rules, codes and policies regarding behaviour,
- act and work co-operatively with other students and teachers,
- respect the learning needs of other students,
- to be punctual, attend all classes, take progressive responsibility for their own learning, to work consistently and complete tasks as required,
- be tolerant of differences and behave with courtesy and consideration for others. In particular, students must refrain from all forms of bullying, vilification and harassment.
- to uphold the reputation of the school by observing an appropriate standard of behaviour in transit to and from the school and during all school activities, camps or excursions,
- to accept the authority of members of staff and observe specific rules which may be made from time to time.
- to behave in a manner which does not endanger the health and safety of themselves or others.
- to refrain from behaviour which would interrupt the work of any class or hinder the learning opportunities of other students.
- to respect school property and the property of staff and other students.
- to remain on the school grounds during the school day and within the boundaries set by their teacher/guardians for their year level.
- to 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.
- students are not permitted to possess cigarettes or tobacco, or smoke cigarettes, tobacco or any other substance, including e-cigarettes or devices for vaping, possess or use or be under the influence of alcohol or unprescribed drugs or other substances harmful to health, at school, on school excursions, in transit between school and home or otherwise while engaged in school activities.
- to dress appropriately and with due regard for health, hygiene and safety. Students' clothing should be fit for purpose and appropriate to the school setting and learning activities of the day. Brief clothing is not appropriate for the school environment, and offers insufficient protection from sun exposure. Examples of the items that are not appropriate at school include tops that expose the shoulders or brief skirts and shorts. Students are encouraged to wear hats when exposure to sun is an issue. In classrooms, hats may be required to be removed at the discretion of the teacher.

Health and safety standards require protective clothing and solid footwear in some subjects, and students are expected to comply with teacher instructions regarding the wearing of personal protective equipment. Sandals, thongs and open shoes may be inappropriate in some settings, as are certain types of jewellery or long hair that is not tied up, as these may present health and safety issues.

Parents/guardians have a right to

- expect that their children can interact and learn in a secure environment,
- be informed of matters regarding their children, and be involved in developing strategies for their behaviour.

Parents/guardians have a responsibility to

- encourage children to observe school rules,
- work co-operatively with the school to solve problems,
- provide support for teachers in implementing this code of conduct and related policies,
- communicate relevant information and concerns to the school.