

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

PURPOSE:

The health and welfare of all members of the school community is important. All children and school staff have the right to feel safe at school. Parents play a formative role in the development of a child's sense of justice, equity, and the dignity and worth of all members of our school community.

The responsibility for upholding the values of the school in this matter must fall on those with the greatest capacity to reason and control their actions. As such the adult community of the school is expected to model courteous behaviour and to treat all members of the school community with respect and consideration.

GUIDELINES:

There may be times when you feel the actions of a member of the school community have infringed the rights of your 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. Such an approach to the child may be seen to be an assault on the child and may have legal consequences.

It is appropriate to approach the teacher responsible for the year group in the first instance to seek his or her intervention in bringing about an equitable and peaceful solution to the situation. If the situation remains unresolved, an approach should be made to the Principal or Head of Campus.

Bullying has no place within our community. This is as true for adult-to-adult interaction as it is for child-to-child. All interactions between members of our community must be in keeping with our school policies. Allegations of bullying must be quickly brought to the attention of the year group coordinator and/or the Principal or the Head of Campus, in line with the existing bullying policy, so that there is a good chance for justice to be achieved for all involved in the conflict.

Problems, differences of opinion and personality clashes are not resolved by involving other people in a disagreement or by taking sides in the argument. Attempts should be made to resolve these issues through calm dialogue between the parties directly involved whilst respecting the dignity of each and every person.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Respect and dignity will be accorded to all members of the school community and the school will do all it can to ensure that students at Alice Miller, including of course Candlebark, feel safe.

Any conflict on school grounds will be dealt with, as much as possible, in a mature and appropriate manner in accordance with existing school and DE&T procedures. Every effort will be made to listen to the grievances of all involved parties in a calm and rational manner without recourse to involvement of outside parties who are not directly involved. However, parents should try to keep in mind that school staff do not necessarily

have the time or energy to deal with disputes that are essentially trivial, that no issue can be properly understood until all points-of-view have been heard, that children tend to move on quickly from disputes (and if they do not do so it may be because they are not encouraged by their parents to do so), and it is vital to teach children from the youngest age to take a “problem-solving approach” (in other words, to ask questions like ‘What are some ways that we can get this thing sorted out as soon as possible?’). Parents who encourage their children to harbour grievances and to think the worst of certain other children are risking considerable harm to the prospects of their children’s success in their adult lives.

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