



Carinya

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

From Christ and For Him

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Carinya Christian School Parent Code of Conduct

Preamble

This Code has been developed so that parents and those with parental responsibilities are aware of and will adhere to the School's expectations with regard to their interaction with the School, its teachers, other parents and students. Adherence to this Code is important to promote positive and productive relationships within the School community.

'Home and School Together' is a very strong combination for students as the school seeks to work with parents in the education of their children in the context of a Christ-centred community. Parents supporting the school in its decisions and guarding the integrity of the school, its staff, parents and other members of the school community is essential for a strong relationship between home and school.

1. Duty of Care

The School has a duty of care to establish and maintain a safe environment for every person who enters our grounds. Our primary concern is the students in our care; however, we acknowledge that every person in the school community (including staff and parents) should feel safe and benefit from the policies, procedures and rules which govern the day to day operations of the School. At Carinya Christian School we believe that every person is uniquely created by God, in his own image, and therefore has inherent worth. Therefore, we want every person to be respected, safe and valued in our School.

2. Role of the School Generally

The School is responsible for establishing and administering the policies, procedures and rules which govern the day to day operations of the School. It is important that parents recognise and respect this, adhere and have their children adhere to the School's requirements, and support the School's decisions.

3. Discipline

The School expects students to comply with its rule and not engage in behaviour which is harmful to others or is contrary to the ethos and philosophy of the School. Parents are expected to support the School in relation to its discipline policy and not do anything which undermines its authority. It must be understood that in the case of minor disciplinary matters, the School will be the arbiter of what is a fair punishment and will not engage in debate about the appropriateness of the punishment.

In relation to more serious disciplinary matters which may result in suspension or expulsion, the School will inform parents of the matter which will be dealt with in accordance with the School's Discipling and Management Policy. While parents will be consulted, the final decision will be the School's. Parents are always able to appeal the School's decision as referred to in the School's Grievance Policy.

4. Interaction with Staff

The School conducts regular meetings between staff and parents at which the student's academic and personal progress can be discussed. There may be other times when a parent or staff member requests a meeting to discuss particular issues that may arise during the course of a student's schooling.

If a parent wishes to meet with a staff member, they should make an appointment so that a mutually convenient time can be arranged. This can be done through the school office or via email.

Parents should never attempt to contact a staff member at their home.

Parents also can make an appointment to see the Principal, Deputy Principal or the Head of School about any particular concerns they may have relating to their son or daughter.

It is important that parents show respect for staff and not publicly criticise them or seek to undermine their authority. If a parent has a particular concern about a member of staff, they can raise it with the staff member concerned or with the Principal, however when doing so, they should observe the general rules of conduct set out in this Code.

The School has a Duty of Care towards all staff, and for this reason, any aggressive or abusive behaviour will not be tolerated.

5. Complaints

If a parent has a complaint about an issue, this should be directed to the Principal, the Deputy Principal or to the teacher responsible for the particular area of activity (Head of School, Subject Coordinator, etc).

If a parent wishes to make a complaint, they should not use rude or abusive language. This is not productive and can make it harder to resolve concerns.

The Complaints Policy and Grievance Policy are both located on the School's Website under "School Business > Policies & Forms"

6. Interactions Generally

Communications, whether oral or in writing, with other members of the school community, whether teachers, administration staff, other parents or students should:

- show respect, courtesy and consideration
- not yell at, harass or bully another person
- not use abusive, belittling, aggressive or unwholesome language
- not be confrontational or abusive

Social media should not be used to criticise or denigrate others in the school community (this includes staff and students).

7. Sport

Carinya sporting teams are an important part of school life and weekly sporting competitions are an integral part of the school sporting program. Participation, enjoyment and respect are priorities at all levels and in all sports at Carinya.

Parents are welcome to attend sporting events, but should exercise restraint when supporting school teams. In particular, they should not abuse, threaten or otherwise seek to intimidate an official, or direct abuse against a player or any School representatives (staff member or parent).

a. Team Selection

The sports coaches at the School pick teams based on their view of the most appropriate selection at the relevant time. It is not appropriate for parents to complain about the failure of their son or daughter to be picked for a particular team.

b. Officials

Most officials in local sports are volunteers. In most cases, they are giving their time to help children play the game. They are people and will make mistakes or wrong decisions from time to time. However, the official's decision should be respected by both spectators and players.

The following conduct will not be tolerated in respect of officials:

- Arguing with or abusing referees
- Making comments that belittle or heckle referees or officials
- Publicly disagreeing with referees' decisions

If there is an issue with an official, it should be addressed with the Carinya staff member (if present) or with the Sports Co-ordinator.

c. Players

Students are encouraged to use and develop their talents to honour Christ, the giver of all gifts, in the way they interact with and compete against others. They are taught that faithfulness and doing their best is all that is required.

Spectators should focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.

The following conduct will not be tolerated in respect of players;

- Barracking which is heckling, belittling or disturbing opposing or Carinya team members
- Ridiculing or yelling at a child for making a mistake or losing a match/competition
- Verbal and physical abuse

If there is an issue with a player, it should be addressed with the Carinya staff member (if present) or with the Sports Co-ordinator.

d. Coaches

Most Carinya coaches and managers are volunteers and make the extensive sporting program at Carinya possible. All spectators and players need to show appreciation for coaches by being courteous and constructive in all communication with them. All coaches enjoy the full support of the school and any concerns a parent may have with the coaching or management of the team, must be addressed with the Sports Co-ordinator.

In normal round games, every effort will be made to give all team members equal opportunity to participate in games, and substitutions will be managed as such. This will foster an enjoyable and inclusive environment for all participants.

The following conduct will not be tolerated in respect of coaches;

- Arguing with or abusing coaches
- Making comments that belittle or heckle the coach or their decisions
- Publicly disagreeing with coaches decisions

Any concerns regarding officials, players or coaches may be raised with the Sport Coordinator or Head of School.

8. Separated Parents

Some students have parents that are separated or divorced. In these cases, parents should not attempt to involve the School in any parental dispute that may arise. The School is not able to make judgments on the merits of claims made by one parent against another and should not be asked to do so. Nor should it be asked to take any action which would be designed to disadvantage one party. The School will of course, observe any orders made by a Court in relation to a student or communications with parents.

9. Failure to Observe this Code

If a parent fails to observe this Code after being warned about a breach, the School may:

- limit access to a teacher or teachers
- limit access to the school premises or sporting or other school events
- terminate the enrolment of the student

Finally

Parents should feel free to contact the Principal or Deputy Principal to discuss any aspect of this policy. Overwhelmingly parents of the school conduct themselves with the highest integrity and good regard for the school. It is hoped that by setting out these expectations, it is clear to parents how the school expects parents to conduct themselves when dealing with any concerns or difficult or challenging situations regarding their child.