



St Munchin's Catholic School

Parent Code of Conduct

At St Munchin's Catholic School we aspire to *reflect the life and love of Christ for His people. Therefore in this community we aspire to live the values of love, respect, compassion, forgiveness, mercy, compassion, service, excellence and justice*

As a parent, you play a formative role in the development of your child's sense of justice, equity, and the dignity and worth of all members of our school community. You also act as one of the most influential role-models within your child's life. As the onus for promoting and upholding these core values of our school community fall on all those with the greatest capacity to reason and control their actions, it is the expectation of the community that all parents, guardians and family members model acceptable behaviour at all times within the school setting.

Guidelines for parents:

- Support your child in all their educational endeavours by giving praise and showing interest in their school activities. Read regularly with your child.
- Help your child to discover that it is often the process that is experienced rather than the end product that makes it all worthwhile; that giving of your very best is what matters rather than always comparing yourself against the capabilities of others. Learning is life long and helping your children love learning now will set them up for life.
- **Be involved in the life of the school.** Attend and fully participate in school events such as Masses, assemblies and sports carnivals. Volunteer for P & F and classroom rosters. Give witness that you value education by being involved in the life of the school.
- **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 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. 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 class teacher or the School Principal to seek their intervention in bringing about an equitable and peaceful solution to the situation.
- **Bullying has no place within our community** and as such will not be tolerated. 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 the values espoused by the Catholic school through its Mission Statement and School policies and must always be respectful.*** Instances of bullying must quickly be brought to the attention of the school staff so that justice may be achieved for all involved in the conflict.
- **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's amazing how easily and quickly most situations can be resolved.
- **Children's perception is not the same as an adult's** due to developmental maturity. They are not lying when their story conflicts with another's or when the teacher's perspective doesn't 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. Listen to your child as they tell you their "reality", but remember that a different "reality" may possibly exist elsewhere. Children 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 the current situation.

- **Protect people's and the school's good name.** Problems, differences of opinion and personality clashes are not resolved by involving other people in a disagreement or by taking sides in the argument. Attempt to resolve these issues through calm dialogue between the parties directly involved whilst respecting the dignity of each & every person. Social media is not the place to air grievances in a Catholic school.
- **It is easy for opinion to be mistaken for fact.** An approach to the relevant personnel within the school to verify the factual basis of a story can assist in allaying your fears as to the events in question and the intent involved.
- **Be prepared to 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.
- **Parents are expected to interact civilly with staff, students and other parents at all times.** Abusive language, raising your voice, insulting or violent behaviour to **anyone** on school grounds, this includes the carpark, is not appropriate.
- **Parents are expected to maintain privacy and confidentiality.** You treat personal information about members of the school community as private and confidential. Avoiding inappropriate carpark discussions which are negative in nature or about a third party. You assist in classrooms when possible without divulging any observations or information about any children not even to their own parents. You are aware of photos that you place on social media to ensure that only your son/daughter can be identified. If there is another child in your posted photo you **MUST** ensure that you have the parents' permission.
- **Parents with concerns regarding their child's learning are encouraged to schedule a meeting with their child's teacher** so concerns can be given the attention they deserve. Collection and drop off is when staff are busiest and at these times, staff may not be able to give your concerns their full attention. Respect teachers' preparation time and make an appointment at a mutually convenient time. Do not discuss any grievances in front of your child/ren regarding the school.
- **Follow any reasonable instructions given by a staff member** and observe the signed parking areas of the school. Areas of no parking are there for a reason, to protect and ensure the safety of children. Do not park in no parking areas or disabled bays unless you have an ACROD sticker.
- **Catholic Schools are strictly non-smoking.** Please refrain from smoking within sight of the boundary of the school property.

Whilst there is no obligation to inform the school of other situations where parents may be in dispute (e.g. separation or other Court Orders in place between parents or people at the school) any information received of this nature will be treated in strict confidence. In any event, the School expects parents to behave lawfully on School grounds and observe the terms of any order, obligation or undertaking they may be subject to.

It is appropriate in times of conflict that correct procedures be followed to allow all parties to be heard and for harmonious solutions to be reached. If the conflict centres around 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 involve the School Principal with the aim of him/her assisting with such a result. Should the matter result from a situation outside of classroom matters then it is appropriate to discuss this with the School Principal in the first instance. If parents remain dissatisfied with the result then the matter can be referred to the Catholic Education Office of Western Australia. (For more information on resolution of disputes please see the Resolution of Disputes Policy)

Refusal to act in a way which is conducive to continuing positive relations and in contravention of this Code of Conduct could result in the need for the parents to reconsider the suitability of their child's placement within our school. **Partnership is never one-way, and it is not possible to be in effective partnership with the school when that partnership is not life-giving, respectful and mutually supportive, both privately and publicly, for all parties.**

It is not possible to categorically state what will constitute a minor issue, inappropriate conduct or misconduct. Each situation must be considered as it arises. However, in cases of serious or repeated misconduct the School may take steps to ban a parent from entry to School grounds and may, where appropriate, involve other authorities.

Deliberate breaches and inability to respect the St Munchin's Catholic School Code of Conduct for Parents & Volunteers or vexatious complaints may result in exclusion of a parent/guardian/caregiver from a school and / or possible termination of enrolment of their child/children.