



# PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

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## **Introduction**

At Mount St. Joseph Girls' College, we are committed to nurturing respectful relationships and active partnerships with you as parents. We believe that our students' learning journeys are enriched through positive and reciprocal home and school relationships.

As parents, you act as one of the most influential role models in your child's life. We therefore seek your support in promoting and upholding the core values of the College community and its culture of respectful relationships.

This Code of Conduct is intended to guide you in your dealings with staff, other parents, students and the wider College community. It articulates the College's key expectations of both staff and parents with regard to respectful relationships and behaviours. It also specifies the College's position with regard to unacceptable behaviours that breach our culture of respect.

This Code of Conduct is to be read in conjunction with the College's:

- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy
- Child Safety Code of Conduct

## **Our Culture of Respectful Relationships**

Among students, staff and parents we strive to develop the following:

- a respect for the innate dignity and worth of every person;
- an ability to understand the situation of others;
- a co-operative attitude in working with others;
- open, positive and honest communication;
- the ability to work respectfully with other people;
- trusting relationships;
- responsible actions.

## **In promoting and upholding this culture, we expect that parents will:**

- support the College's Catholic ethos, traditions and practices;
- support the College in its efforts to maintain a positive teaching and learning environment;
- understand the importance of healthy parent/teacher/child relationships and strive to build the relationships;
- support the College's learning culture by maintaining regular access to school communication including newsletters, emails, the Parent Access Module and Canvas; inform the College of all relevant information that may impact your child's learning or wellbeing;
- adhere to College policies;
- treat staff, students and other parents with respect and courtesy.

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### In promoting and upholding this culture, we expect that staff will:

- communicate with you regularly regarding your child's learning, development and wellbeing through various channels;
- provide opportunities for involvement in your child's learning;
- maintain confidentiality over sensitive issues;
- relate with and respond to you in a respectful and professional manner;
- ensure a timely response to any concerns raised by you.

### Raising Concerns and Resolving Conflict

In raising concerns on behalf of your child, or making a complaint about the College's practices or treatment of your child, **we expect that you will:**

- listen to your child, but remember that a different understanding may exist elsewhere;
- observe the College's stated procedures for raising and resolving a grievance/complaint;
- follow specified protocol for communication with staff members, including making appointments at a mutually convenient time and communicating your concerns in a constructive manner;
- refrain from approaching another child while in the care of the College to discuss or reprimand them because of actions towards your child. Refer the matter directly to the College.

In responding to your concerns or a complaint, **we expect that staff will:**

- observe confidentiality and show respect for sensitive issues;
- ensure your views and opinions are heard and understood;
- communicate and respond in ways that are constructive, fair and respectful;
- ensure a timely response to your concerns/complaint;
- strive for resolutions and outcomes that are satisfactory to all parties.

### Staff Safety and Wellbeing

The College places high value and priority on maintaining a safe and respectful working environment for our staff. We regard certain behaviours as harmful and unacceptable insofar as they compromise the safety and professional wellbeing of our staff. These behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- shouting or swearing, either in person or on the telephone;
- physical or verbal intimidation;
- aggressive hand gestures;
- writing rude, defamatory, aggressive or abusive comments to/about a staff member (emails/social media);
- racist or sexist comments;
- damage or violation of possessions/property. When a parent behaves in such unacceptable ways, the principal or a senior staff member will seek to resolve the situation and repair relationships through discussion and/or mediation.

Where a parent's behaviour is deemed likely to cause ongoing harm, distress or danger to the staff member and others, we may exercise our legal right to impose a temporary or permanent ban from the parent entering the College premises. In an extreme act of violence that causes physical harm to the staff member and his/her property, the matter may be reported to the police for investigation.

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