RATIONALE – Purpose and Principles

At Green Point Christian College we seek at all times to provide an open, safe and welcoming community with high quality education, pastoral services and co-curricula activities. We require that all College community members demonstrate a commitment to the highest standards of ethics, professional behaviour and compliance with the College’s Codes of Conduct.

This Policy is intended to:

1. Provide a set of general principles to guide parents/guardians/visitors in their interaction with staff, students and other parents of Green Point Christian College;
2. Communicate the College’s expectation as to how parents conduct themselves when on College grounds; and
3. Explain how parents/guardians/visitors can direct their concerns.

This Code is not intended to comprehensively address every situation, but is a general guide only.

SCOPE

The scope of this Policy applies to all parents, guardians, relatives, friends, supporters, carers, visitors and invitees to the College. This Policy is written to ensure there are clear standards of behaviour in the College environment or when attending any College related function or activity.

DEFINITION

Any Code of Conduct has as its primary goal an understanding that the community of the College is founded on relationships which are based on shared beliefs and common goals. This Code of Conduct creates a climate for a covenant with all parents and visitors to ensure a common understanding of expectations of personal behaviour, acceptable interactions with staff, other parents, other visitors and students, in terms of communication and expectations.

GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT PRINCIPLES

Personal Behaviour
All parents/guardians/visitors are expected to comply with behaviour that demonstrates respect for other people, the authority of the College, and sets a Christlike example for students. The following standards of behaviour include but are not limited to:

1. Refraining from inappropriate language or conduct on College grounds. This includes wearing inappropriate clothing that may cause offense.
2. Refraining from smoking – all educational facilities are non-smoking areas.
3. Not possessing or being affected by alcohol or any illegal substance, whilst on College property.
4. Respecting and complying with all applicable Commonwealth and State laws.
5. Respecting the legal and moral rights of others and treating them with dignity, civility and respect at all times, and especially when there is a disagreement.
6. Showing proper care and regard for College property and the property of others.

Interaction with staff, other parents and students
Parents/guardians/visitors are expected to interact respectfully with staff, students and other parents at all times. Any language which is abusive, insulting or aggressive in nature is not appropriate.

Parents/guardians/visitors are not permitted to discipline another parent’s child whilst on College grounds. The duty of care whilst on College grounds remains with teachers.

All concerns related to general Code of Conduct principles need to be directed to the Principal.

Communication
The College will endeavour to assist parents to manage conflicts as best as it can, but can only do this if it is informed of such matters. In some circumstances parents are required by law to advise the College of areas of potential conflict, such as parenting and family court orders.

Whilst there is no obligation to inform the College of other situations where parents may be in dispute (eg separation or other Court Orders in place between parents or people at the College) any information received of this nature will be treated in strict confidence.

In any event, the College expects parents to behave lawfully on College grounds and observe the terms of any order, obligation or undertaking to which they may be subject.

Expectations
The College takes seriously any issues that are brought to its attention. If concerns are expressed in confidence, parents/guardians/visitors can expect to be treated with courtesy and respect in order to try and resolve the matter.

As a general guide, minor issues may be addressed (in private) with your child’s teacher. Cases of inappropriate conduct or misconduct ought to be directed, in the first instance, to the College Principal.

The Principal may wish to speak to you and then speak to your child’s class teacher. If the issue concerns other parents or students, the Principal may speak to those persons as well, unless you express a desire for the matter to remain between you and the College.

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 College may need to take steps to institute a temporary ban of a parent/guardian/visitor from entry to the College grounds and may, or where appropriate, involve other authorities.

With this guide in place it is hoped that parents/guardians/visitors can appropriately direct their concerns and contribute to a harmonious environment that reflects and builds on the College’s core beliefs and values.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct
The consequences to a member of the College community for breaching this Code of Conduct will be determined by the Principal in accordance with the Green Point Christian College Grievance Policy and may include one or more of the following:
• The College may place a temporary ban on any member of the College community from attending any co-curricula activity, after any breach in the Code of Conduct, whilst seeking a resolution;
• The College may place a temporary ban on any member of the College community from being on the College grounds in general, after any breach in the Code of Conduct, whilst seeking a resolution;
• The College may direct that any parent/guardian/visitor only communicate with members of staff through a nominated College representative, whilst seeking a resolution to the breach of the Code of Conduct;
• In the case of extreme or prolonged breach of this Code of Conduct by a parent/guardian/visitor, the College may see that the only option is to terminate the enrolment of the child of that parent/guardian; and
• The College may take such other steps as it may in its reasonable discretion determine appropriate according to the nature of the breach.

Right of Appeal

The Green Point Christian College Grievance Policy “right of appeal” will apply to any decision made by the Principal under this Code of Conduct. The Policy is accessible on, and can be downloaded from, the College’s website.

Important Related Policy Documents:

• Grievance Policy
• Work Health and Safety
• Child Well-being and Child Protection Policy