

Casuarina Steiner School Parent Code of Conduct

Ratified by Board November 2010

This Code of Conduct is intended to assist CASUARINA STEINER SCHOOL parents and guardians to identify and resolve issues of conduct that may arise at school. It is designed to guide parents and guardians in their dealings with staff, other parents, students and the wider school community. The Code is written in line with the schools values and expectations. The Code stands beside but does not of course exclude or replace the rights and obligations of individuals under common law.

The School is a complex organisation comprising a diversity of populations that have different relationships to one another. It is essential in such a community that all members recognise and respect not only their own rights and responsibilities but also the rights and responsibilities of other members of the community and those of the School itself.

As a parent, you play a formative role in the development of your child's sense of justice, equity, and worth of all members of the 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 the school community must fall on all those with the greatest capacity to reason and control their actions, it is the expectation of the school that all parents model acceptable behaviour at all times within the school setting.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Student Welfare and Discipline Policy as well as the Camp Policy.

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT: *To nurture a positive learning environment where children are empowered and inspired to be inquisitive, innovative and caring.*

SCHOOL VALUES: *Adventure, Balance, Community, Creativity, Friendship, Happiness, Independence, Integrity, Love, Relevance, Resilience, Respect, Responsibility*

We strive to develop the following:

- A non-judgmental attitude towards all people
- 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
- Reverence for the world
- An appreciation of beauty
- Trusting relationships
- Responsible actions

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As a Parent and Guardian we ask that you:

- Support your child/ren in all educational endeavours by giving praise and showing interest in school activities
- Help your child/ren to discover that it is often the process that is experienced rather than the end product that makes it all worthwhile
- Help your child/ren to understand that giving of your very best is what matters rather than always comparing yourself against the capabilities of others
- Demonstrate that both parents and teachers work together for the benefit of the child/ren
- Listen to your child/ren, but remember that a different "reality" may possibly exist elsewhere
- Support the philosophy of Steiner Education
- Understand the importance of a healthy parent/teacher/child triangle and communicate any concerns to your child's teacher in a constructive manner
- Adhere to the school's policies, as outlined on the school website and the family guidelines, and endeavour to support them in the home
- Co-operate where your child's behaviour has overstepped accepted school standards, as outlined in Student Welfare Policy and follow specified protocol for communication with staff members
- Support the school in its efforts to maintain a positive teaching and learning environment
- Maintain a positive and co-operative attitude

Parent/Guardian Rights

- To be treated with respect and courtesy by other parents
- To have confidentiality over sensitive issues respected by staff
- To be treated in a caring and polite manner
- To be respected by staff and students
- To have a timely response to concerns raised
- To be treated with professionalism from all staff members
- To be listened to and clearly communicated with, in regard to their child's education

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Under no circumstances approach another child whilst in the care of the school to discuss or chastise them because of actions towards their own child/ren
- Be aware that events have many sides, be prepared to listen to them and seek to verify facts before stating a concern
- Respect the rights of Staff members and other individuals
- Respect the reputation of teachers and be mindful of communications
- Follow the correct procedures to resolve a grievance or conflict
- Follow any reasonable instructions given by a staff member
- Respect teachers' preparation time before school and make an appointment at a mutually convenient time if you wish to speak to a teacher -please do not expect a meeting before school unless pre-arranged
- Do not discuss any grievances in front of your child/ren regarding the school
- On excursions, helping in class or on camps, parents must follow the instructions and wishes of the teacher. A parent may remind students of the rules but at no time issue consequences

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Concerns, Complaints, Criticism (Please see Grievance Guidelines in Parent Handbook for full details)

If a parent/guardian has a complaint, criticism or concern, it is expected the following steps be followed in the first instance:

1. Speak to the person involved first and try to resolve the concern with mutual respect and clear communication
2. If for some reason this is not possible, then make an appointment to see the Principal
3. The Principal will arrange a meeting between the two parties involved in an attempt to mediate and find resolution

It is important to note that criticism regarding a staff member will only be heard if it is related to their professional conduct.