

St Monica's School Footscray

Student Code of Conduct



St Monica's School is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS), where formation and education are based on the principles of Catholic doctrine, and where the teachers are outstanding in true doctrine and uprightness of life.

Introduction

St Monica's believes that for the school to be effective, it should provide a safe and happy learning environment which meets the needs of our children at all levels of their primary school life..

Purpose

As a means of promoting such an environment, the school has a Student Code of Conduct and the following principles underpin this policy

all individuals are to be treated fairly and with respect

students have a right to work in a secure environment where they feel free to develop to the fullest, their talents, interests and ambitions without intimidation

parents/carers have a right to expect that their children will be educated in a secure environment in which expectations of care, courtesy and respect for the rights of others will be encouraged

parents/carers accept their obligation to support the school in its efforts to maintain a positive teaching and learning environment

teachers have a right to expect that they will be able to teach in an atmosphere of order and cooperation

the School Principal and staff members accept their obligation to fairly, reasonably and consistently implement the Code of Conduct.

our school considers that a positive approach to behaviour is essential in fostering a school climate within which personal responsibility and self-discipline will be developed. Therefore everyone has responsibilities.

Our policy is based on the recognition of student, teacher/ancillary staff, and parent/carer rights and responsibilities.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

All students have the right to:

- to be safe
 - to be respected
- to engage fully in the social, spiritual and academic life of the school

All students have the responsibility to:

- to treat everyone with respect and thoughtfulness
- to participate in all school learning activities

to follow instructions
dangerous activities and violence are unacceptable
intimidating behaviour and harassment are unacceptable
to report any dangerous activity to the teachers
to look after your own and others property
to stay within the school grounds unless with a teacher
remain out of the buildings during recess and lunchtime
to not climb on buildings, trees or unsuitable equipment
to not run inside or where there are many people about
to know where you can play particular games safely

Teacher/Ancillary Staff Rights and Responsibilities

All teachers and school support staff have the right to:

- be free from disruption in the teaching and learning process
- be treated fairly and with respect by all members of the school community
- the support and assistance of other staff
- implement the discipline policy

expect strong support from the school community in the discipline process

All teachers and support staff have the responsibility to:

- continually provide good teaching and learning practices and evaluate teaching strategies
- provide adequate supervision
- encourage awareness and understanding of school rules
- fairly, reasonably and consistently implement the Code of Conduct
- request advice and assistance when needed

treat others as they would like to be treated themselves

Parent/Carer Rights and Responsibilities

All parents/carers have the right to:

- be recognised as the major influence in their child's development
- have access to staff at convenient, mutually agreed times
- participate in the total life of the school community
- be kept informed and given the opportunity to express themselves on matters of school policy
- be consulted/informed of inappropriate behaviours

be treated fairly and with respect by all members of the school community

All parents/carers have the responsibility to:

- encourage good behaviour habits in their children
- support the school in its effort to maintain a positive teaching and learning environment
- support the school in its discipline procedures associated with implementation of the Code of Conduct

treat others as they would like to be treated themselves

School Strategies

St Monica's School believes a positive approach to behaviour is desirable in order to foster the concept of self-respect and fairness to children, teachers and the wider community and to retain a connection with the learning focus of the school. In order to develop a positive approach to behaviour our school is committed to the following strategies:

School Wide Behaviour Plan

Our school has three expectations:

We are Safe

We are Respectful

We are Engaged in All Learning

All students are supported in meeting these expectations with a three level reminder system:

A gentle reminder

A comment on the undesirable behaviour i.e 'That behaviour does not show engagement in your learning,' and a request for the student to come closer so support can be given.

A reiteration of the comment on unacceptable behaviour, with the extension that the student is obviously finding the focus too difficult and may need time alone to help refocus. At this point students are sent to spend a set period of time with a school leader until they are settled enough to return to class.

This process is used for all students. However, students with additional needs may have Learning Plans with variations on this process.

Additional Strategies

- encourage friendships
- develop pride in the school and the wider community
- develop understanding of, acknowledge for and respect of differences
- encourage sharing, tolerance and compassion amongst all children
- enhance and encourage parent/carer teacher contact
- be consistent and fair in expectations of behaviour and their consequences
- encourage organised and responsible play within our playground
- involve children in decision-making aspects of the Code of Conduct
- ensure that children understand the Code of Conduct
- be consistent in reinforcing the Code of Conduct

SCHOOL RULES

Because one of the rights is the right to be safe and secure, we consider the following forms of behaviour to be intimidating or dangerous and they are therefore unacceptable in our school:

- fighting, bullying or any other form of aggressive behaviour
- throwing sand, stones or other dangerous objects
- using or carrying weapons (sticks, knives etc)
- harassment (cultural, religious, racial, sexual and disabilities)
- teasing and name calling
- stealing
- graffiti
- leaving the school ground without permission
- riding bikes in the school ground

- running in the school buildings
- climbing trees, roofs or structures other than designated playground equipment
- being in school buildings without teacher supervision
- kicking and other violence-based games

GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH UNACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

St Monica's School believes that discipline is best achieved by:

- providing an interesting, varied and stimulating learning environment which caters for the individual needs of all children
- maintaining a busy working tone throughout the school
- The promotion of positive social relationships.

We do, however, realise instances of unacceptable student behaviour will still occasionally occur.

Given that students understand the school's Code of Conduct and the effect that breaches could have on themselves and others, it is therefore logical that choosing to breach the code should incur some penalty. The penalty should be logically connected to the offences.