



Clarence Valley
ANGLICAN SCHOOL

School Community Code of Conduct Policy

The aim of Clarence Valley Anglican School is to be an outstanding regional school in New South Wales. It is the product of the vision of a community - to build a school with access to all who want their children to achieve the highest standards of education and behaviour.

Children are enrolled at Clarence Valley Anglican School so that the School can provide educational services to that child and get the best possible outcome for her or him. This can only occur if there is a constructive, cooperative relationship with the family.

Clarence Valley Anglican School is founded on faith. The Christian ethos is present in its caring philosophy and its concern to produce educated leadership. The School is a community school in the sense that its doors are open to all, so long as they are sympathetic to and support the School's Christian foundation.

And let us consider how we may spur one another toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another. Hebrews 10:24-25

School Community Code of Conduct Policy		
Policy Last Review August 2019	Review Date and Frequency Every two years	Responsible for Review Head of Clarenza Campus
Recommended By School Executive	Approved By School Council	Approval Date 24 September 2019

SCOPE OF THIS POLICY

This policy applies to all adults including parents, guardians, step-parents, grandparents, extended family, care-givers and any others while involved in activities or communication related to Clarence Valley Anglican School (“the School”). For the purpose of this policy, the term “parent” refers to all caregivers listed above.

INTRODUCTION

The School exists through the support of its community and parent body. The positive partnership between the School and parents is a key factor in the success of each student and the School as a whole.

Parents are students’ most significant role models, accordingly, the School expects a high standard of personal behaviour from parents when they are on School grounds, attending events or communicating with staff or other students.

The School believes the relationship between the School and parents should be a role model for our students as they develop and grow into responsible citizens. Therefore, it is given that this relationship be based on an atmosphere of goodwill, trust and mutual understanding.

This Code of Conduct is intended to:

- provide a set of general principles to guide parents in their interaction with staff, students and other parents;
- communicate the School’s expectations as to how parents conduct themselves when in contact with the School, when on the School grounds or at School events; and
- explain the manner in which parents can direct their concerns.

EXPECTATION OF PARENT/CAREGIVERS

The School expects parents to:

- Respect and support the School values, processes and rules
- Treat all members of the School community with respect
- Acknowledge that enrolment in the School means acceptance of the School’s right to make decisions in regard to behaviour, teaching and learning, uniform and deportment
- Support the School in its regulatory, disciplinary and organisational actions
- Approach any concerns in regard to the School’s actions via appropriate channels and in a manner that allows for a reasoned and responsible outcome. You should refer to the School Community Complaints Policy and School Community Complaints Procedure for further information about these channels
- Allow the School to deal with issues that might occur between students, rather than approaching other parents

In order to provide our community with a safe and nurturing environment, the School will not accept the following behaviours:

- Disruptive or threatening behaviour towards any member of the School community
- Use of phone, email, text message, social media, technological platforms or letter to threaten or defame
- The use of language that includes swearing, profanity or aggression
- Entering a classroom, learning area or playground without specific permission
- Physical contact with students that is inappropriate given the age of, and relationship with, the student such that questions of impropriety arise
- Making offensive, derogatory or defamatory remarks or comments in regard to the School, parents, students or staff
- Spreading gossip or expressing defamatory comments in regard to the School, its staff or policies and processes

The School expressly forbids:

- Wearing clothing with offensive language or insignia
- Dressing inappropriately according to the occasion
- Smoking on School grounds
- Possessing alcohol on School grounds, unless the event has been sanctioned by the School
- Attending School events if affected by alcohol or any illegal drug intoxicant
- Not showing proper care and regard for School property, the property of others and Workplace Health and Safety considerations

INAPPROPRIATE COMMUNICATION

In cases where a parent does not act civilly with staff, either in person or outside of the School grounds, during a phone call, or via e-mail or any additional social media or technological platform, the staff member may take on of the following actions:

- request that the parent cease their inappropriate communication in order to allow the communication to proceed
- inform the parent that unless the inappropriate communication ceases, the staff member may put an end to the phone call, meeting or discussion
- request another staff member be present for the remainder of the meeting, if deemed necessary to proceed with such
- lodge a complaint against the offending parent

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is defined as how we use technology to communicate and connect with others. Despite the range of positive uses of social media, there are also a number of ethical and legal issues associated with its use. Anything published online has potential legal liabilities that may arise, particularly in relation to issues pertaining to reputational damage, and defamation.

Parents can ensure they abide by the laws and the School's expectations of its parents, by complying with the following:

- The School, its staff and members of its community should not be mentioned or discussed in a negative or defamatory way
- Photographs of students in School uniform represent the School and its students, and should not be posted if they have the potential to bring negative connotations towards the School or its staff and students
- Photographs or video footage containing other students should not be posted without the express consent of the other child/children's parents
- Email addresses and phone numbers of parents, staff and students should not be given to other people without their express consent
- Parents are not permitted to make contact with other students via any form of social media without the express consent of the student's parents

WHAT PARENTS CAN EXPECT FROM THE SCHOOL

The School takes any issues that are brought to its attention seriously. If parents express their concerns to the School, they can expect to be treated with courtesy and respect in order to try to resolve the matter. As a general guide, minor issues may be raised with your child's teacher or Stage Coordinator. Cases of more serious inappropriate conduct or misconduct should be directed to the Head of Campus or Principal. Each situation will be considered as it arises and based on the issues.

With these guidelines in place it is hoped that parents can appropriately direct their concerns and contribute to a harmonious school community that reflects and builds on the School's values.

IN THE EVENT OF BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The consequences for breaches of this Code of Conduct will be determined by the Principal and may include one, or more, of the following:

- The School may ban a parent from entry to School grounds or from attending co-curricular activities or other events
- The School may direct that a parent only communicate with members of staff through a nominated School representative
- In cases of extreme or prolonged breach of this Code of Conduct by a parent, the School may terminate the enrolment of the child/children of that parent
- The School may, where appropriate, involve other authorities
- The School may take other such steps as it deems appropriate according to the nature of the breach

The Principal may use the **Inclosed Lands Protection Act** to deal with people who enter onto or remain on the School's sites without authority. The legislation stipulates that persons conducting themselves "in such a manner as would be regarded by reasonable persons as being, in all circumstances, offensive" be required to leave the premises.

The Act can be accessed below:

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/1901/33/full>

"Intimidation" is defined as:

- Conduct amounting to harassment or molestation
- Any approach made to a person by telephone, text-message, e-mail or other technological means or platform that causes the person to fear for his or her safety
- any conduct that causes a reasonable apprehension of injury to a person or to anyone with whom the person has a domestic relationship
- Any conduct that causes a reasonable apprehension of violence or damage to any person or property

On rare occasions, a parent's behaviour on School grounds could give rise to a reasonable suspicion that their child is at risk of harm. This may relate to an actual incident, but other risk factors may also be present. School staff should inform the Principal and/or Head of Campus of any concerns that a student may be at risk of harm.

The Principal needs to consider whether to report to Family and Community services, or initiate some other action. The Mandatory Reporter Guide and Child Protection Policy can help with this decision.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- *Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy*
- *Cathedral Campus Security Policy*
- *Clarenza Campus Security Policy*
- *Privacy Policy*
- *Procedural Fairness Policy*
- *Safe and Supportive Environment Policy*
- *School Community Communication Policy*
- *School Community Communication Procedure*
- *School Community Code of Conduct Procedure*
- *School Community Complaints Policy*
- *School Community Complaints Procedure*
- *Student Code of Conduct Policy*
- *Work, Health and Safety Policy*