



Parent Code of Conduct POLICY

RATIONALE

Allansford & District Primary School welcomes community participation and values its input. Parents play a crucial role in the academic, social, emotional and physical development of their children.

Our school is committed to ensuring that children feel happy, safe and secure, and have the maximum opportunity to learn. As members of the school community, parents are expected to conduct themselves in a lawful, ethical, safe and responsible manner that recognizes and respects the rights of others and the expertise, experience and qualifications of staff.

The Parent Code of Conduct Policy provides statements which serve as a reminder to all members of the school community of their obligations as a member of the ADPS community.

This policy applies to all adults including parents, guardians, stepparents, grandparents, extended family, advocates and any others involved in activities or communication related to ADPS.

PURPOSE

Working together within our school community to provide a safe environment is paramount in supporting the learning and wellbeing of every student.

Parents and other visitors to school support safety by ensuring their communications and conduct at the school and school activities is respectful.

The Parent Code of Conduct works alongside the school values of to be SAFE, to be RESPECTFUL, to be RESPONSIBLE and to be a LEARNER.

GUIDELINES

All members of the school community are expected to behave with respect, civility and in the manner of a responsible citizen.

There may be times when it is felt the actions of a member of the school community have infringed the rights of a child. Under no circumstances is a parent or guardian to approach another child, whilst they are in the care of our school, to discuss or chastise them because of their actions. Such an approach to the child may be seen to be an assault on the child and may have legal consequences.

In addition to this, direct parent/parent contact should be avoided when there has been an incident at the school involving their child/children. It is appropriate to approach the class teacher in the first instance to seek their intervention in bringing about an equitable and peaceful solution to the situation. If the situation remains unresolved, an approach should be made to the school Principal.

Bullying has no place within our community and as such will not be tolerated. This is as true for adult-to-adult interaction as it is for child-to-child. All interactions between members of our community must be in keeping with the values highlighted by the school and school policies. Instances of bullying must quickly be brought to the attention of the Classroom Teacher or Principal in line with our policy.

The ADPS school community should ensure that everyone within the school community is treated with respect, fairness and dignity. Respect and treat others fairly, regardless of their race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability. Therefore, inappropriate use of social media regarding ADPS will not be tolerated. In order to help protect peoples' good name, problems, differences of opinion and personality clashes are not resolved by involving other people in a disagreement or by taking sides in the argument. We will attempt to resolve these issues through calm dialogue between the parties directly involved whilst respecting the dignity of each and every person. There is an expectation that people working within the school as "volunteers" avoid forming opinions on other students or sharing their opinions with the broader community.

IMPLEMENTATION

Communication

It is expected that parents and visitors to our school communities will:

- be polite to others
- act as positive role models
- recognize and respect personal differences
- use the school's communication process to address concerns

Parents and visitors to our school communities demonstrate this by:

- using polite spoken and written language
- speaking and behaving respectfully at all times
- being compassionate when interacting with others
- informing staff if the behaviour of others is negatively impacting them or their family
- respecting staff time by accepting they will respond to appropriate communication when they are able
- requesting a meeting to discuss any concerns about their child's education — allowing staff time to prepare and appreciating their time may be limited

Collaboration

It is expected that parents and visitors to our school communities will:

- (parents) ensure their child attends school ready to learn
- support the Student Engagement Policy

Parents and visitors to our school communities demonstrate this by:

- taking responsibility for their child arriving and departing school safely on time every day
- reading and encouraging their child to understand and follow the Student Engagement Policy

School Culture

It is expected that parents and visitors to our school communities will:

- recognize every student is important to us
- contribute to a positive school culture
- work together with staff to resolve issues or concerns
- respect people's privacy

Parents and visitors to our school communities demonstrate this by:

- valuing each child's education
- acknowledging staff are responsible for supporting the whole school community
- speaking positively about the school and its staff
- not making negative comments or gossiping about other school community members, including students — in person, in writing or on social media
- understanding, at times, compromises may be necessary
- considering the privacy of all school community members at all times and understanding that the school cannot share confidential information.

Teacher's value parental involvement and assistance, but they may ask a parent to leave the classroom or school grounds for reasons, such as:

- Parental assistance not being required
- Parental presence in the classroom or at the activity is disturbing or distracting to a student or teacher
- The parent is not in control of their emotions.

CONSEQUENCES OF A BREACH OF THE PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Any parent, member of school staff or student may notify the principal of a possible breach of the Parent Code of Conduct. The principal will investigate the complaint and if satisfied that a breach has occurred:

- provide a first and/or final warning that a breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred and that a further breach will not be tolerated.
- determine whether a breach may be rectified by the parent making an apology, depending on the circumstances, to an individual or group of individuals.
- Direct the parent that communication in regard to their child or children can only be accessed through the Principal or Principal nomination
- where the breach concerned unacceptable behaviour on a visit to the school, direction not to enter school buildings, not to enter School grounds for a period of time or attend a school-based event may be applied.
- If warnings are not sufficient to change disruptive behaviour, a tailored notice against trespass is a legitimate option.
- If behaviour is threatening to members of the school community, the police may be contacted.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

Nothing in this Policy precludes any person from exercising their individual legal rights in respect of obtaining restraining and intervention orders, reporting assault, bringing action for defamation, exercising rights under vilification or discrimination laws or in any other way.

This policy will apply to any decisions made by the School Council and Principal under this Code of Conduct and decisions may be appealed using the school's procedures for complaints and resolutions.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Department of Education Guidelines on a 4 yearly cycle.

This Policy works in conjunction with:

- Duty of Care Policy
- Child Safety Policy
- Student Engagement Policy
- Complaints Policy

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed to reflect the requirements of the new strategic plan.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

March 2022