

## Relationship Policy

St Pius School strives to build a community where all feel safe and treat each other with awareness, respect and understanding.

## Rationale

An engaged community who share and live our school beliefs and values and who support our endeavours, is critical in helping us to build and maintain an effective school. Appropriate conduct on and off school grounds by everyone is central to ensuring we achieve this goal. Our staff and students work to a Code of Conduct and this document is intended to provide similar guidelines for parents. Specifically, 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 of St Pius Primary School;
- communicate the School's expectation as to how parents conduct themselves in the context of being a parent of St Pius Banyo; and
- explain how parents can direct their concerns.

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

## School's core beliefs

The School has a number of core beliefs and values. Those core beliefs include:

*Positive Relationships; Collaboration; Inclusivity and Difference; Role Models; Excellence and Personal and Academic Growth.*

## Personal behaviour

As parents you are our student's biggest role models. Accordingly, the School expects a high standard of personal behaviour from parents, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Refraining from offensive, insulting or derogatory language or conduct when acting in the context of a parent of St Pius Banyo. This includes wearing clothing with offensive language or insignia.
- Dress appropriately on school grounds and at school events. Revealing clothing or beach wear should be avoided, and barefoot or not wearing a shirt is not appropriate.
- School facilities are strictly non-smoking. Please refrain from smoking within sight of the boundary of the school property.
- Alcohol is only permitted on school grounds in designated areas for specific functions, during which alcohol must be consumed responsibly. In all other circumstances, parents must not attend school grounds if affected by alcohol or other intoxicants.

## Interaction with staff, other parents and students

- Parents are expected to interact civilly with staff, students and other parents at all times.
- Abusive language, raising your voice, insulting or violent behaviour to **anyone** on school grounds is not appropriate.
- Whilst interaction between students can be unruly it is not appropriate to discipline another parents' child whilst on school grounds. Physical contact can be an assault and is a serious matter. Parents with concerns about the interaction between students on school grounds (principally at drop off and collection times) must address their concerns to their child's class teacher or supervising teacher.
- Parents with concerns regarding their child's learning are encouraged to schedule a meeting with their child's teacher so concerns can be given the attention they deserve. Collection and drop off is when staff are busiest and at these times, staff may not be able to give your concerns their full attention. Continuing concerns should be directed to the Principal.
- Social media is not the vehicle for addressing concerns or criticism of school matters, staff, parents or students. Social media comments regarding school matters should be conducted in a positive manner.

## Communication and the potential for conflict

- The School will endeavour to assist parents to manage conflicts as best it can but can only do so if it is informed of such matters. In some circumstances parents are required by law to advise the School of areas of potential conflict, such as parenting and family court orders.
- Whilst there is no obligation to inform the school of other situations where parents may be in dispute (e.g. separation or other Court Orders in place between parents or people at the school) any information received of this nature will be treated in strict confidence.
- In any event, the School expects parents to behave lawfully on School grounds and observe the terms of any order, obligation or undertaking they may be subject to.

## What parents can expect from the School

- The School does not exist to police parents' conduct. However, the School takes seriously any issues that are brought to its attention. If parents express their concerns to the School in confidence parents 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 School 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 School.
- 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 School may take steps to ban a parent from entry to School grounds and may, where appropriate, involve other authorities.

With this guide in place it is hoped that parents can appropriately direct their concerns and contribute to a harmonious environment that reflects and builds on the School's core beliefs and values