

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Rationale

Whittlesea Secondary College (WSC) is committed to providing a safe, friendly and respectful environment for students in an environment that promotes learning, personal growth and positive self-esteem. We uphold the right of all to have respect from others, the right to learn and teach, and the right to feel safe and secure in their school environment.

We believe powerful learning occurs in an environment offering support, challenge and the development of self-esteem.

Aims

- to achieve the College values through clearly articulated behavioural expectations based on a set of principles that acknowledge students' rights and responsibilities.

Implementation

College Values

The values of Whittlesea Secondary College underpin its cultural and moral framework, enabling it to set clear and resolute behavioural codes. The values are:

Teamwork Respect Excellence Integrity Commitment Knowledge

- These codes, once adhered to, enable the members of the school college community to function in a safe, morally respectful and highly energised learning community and uphold the right of all to be respected by others, the right to learn and teach and the right to feel safe and secure in our environment.
- Personal attributes such as honesty, resilience, empathy and respect for others reinforce essential life skills to assist building strong relationships.
- This will be achieved through clearly articulated behavioural expectations based on a set of principles that acknowledge students' rights and responsibilities.
- Refer to rights and responsibilities below, and the WSC Student Engagement, Wellbeing and Inclusion Policy.

Rights and Responsibilities

Students

have the right to

- be treated fairly and with respect regardless of physical, intellectual, sexual, racial, cultural or religious differences
- be valued as individuals and have their unique learning styles recognised and catered for so that they can learn and maximise their potential
- have a safe, secure environment that is free from intimidation, bullying and harassment
- be provided with exemplary role models by all staff of the college
- be regularly informed of their progress
- be involved in the decision making of the processes of the College

have the responsibility to

- be respectful of the beliefs, feelings and opinions of others
- behave in a positive manner that contributes to the learning of fellow students and does not disrupt the learning of students and enables teachers to teach in an atmosphere of cooperation

- take responsibility for their learning and use the resources and teachers of the college to facilitate and support their learning

Parents

have the right to

- be informed and aware of current college policies and procedures
- expect that their children will be educated in a safe, supportive and secure environment
- have their children treated equally and fairly
- be frequently informed of the learning progress of their children
- be provided with information on general school activities
- be involved in the decision making process of the school (as determined by DET policies)

have the responsibility to

- support the college's code of conduct and policies, including uniform and attendance
- promote positive educational outcomes for their children by taking an active interest in their child's educational progress and by modelling positive behaviours
- communicate with the college if they have any concerns about their child's progress or well-being
- support the college in its efforts to maintain a safe and positive teaching and learning environment
- respect all members of the College community and property

Teachers

have the right to

- to be treated fairly with respect and teach without interference or disruption
- be supported by the co-operation of parents and the school community
- access appropriate support and professional development
- have their concerns heard
- to be informed of privacy requirements

have the responsibility to

- to be informed and aware of the current college and det policies and procedure
- fairly, reasonably and consistently implement these policies
- know their students, the content they teach and use a range of teaching strategies and resources to engage students in effective learning
- treat each student with respect, dignity and fairness
- create a stimulating learning environment
- teach and encourage students to reach their full potential
- model and promote positive relationships with all college community members
- acknowledge and/or reward positive actions or achievement
- to communicate to other key staff regarding welfare and attendance issues

Expectations of Student Behaviour

Students are expected to be polite, sensible, respectful and fair towards each other, staff and other members of the College community.

In implementing the above principles, the Code of Conduct requires that students will:

- follow instructions given by teachers in the performance of their duties
- show respect towards all members of the college and maintain a safe and supportive environment
- speak and listen in a manner that shows courtesy and respect
- work to the best of their ability in all learning areas
- be punctual and regular in attendance to school and classes and take all the required equipment to classes
- wear the prescribed college uniform while at the college, while travelling to and from the college and on any activity associated with the college

- behave in such a manner that will bring credit to themselves and the college whilst travelling to and from the college, and attending activities associated with the college
- demonstrate respect for the property of others including the college buildings, grounds and equipment
- undertake the responsibilities associated with any leadership position
- respect other students' right to learn and the teachers' right to teach
- be responsible for their own learning, behaviour and attitude
- approach their work in a focused, orderly and safe manner
- attend school consistently and all classes and activities punctually with the required equipment
- set goals and work towards achieving them
- value and participate in all activities related to their learning including sporting events, excursions and camps
- be supportive and encouraging of others
- be respectful of the beliefs, values, feelings and opinions of others
- respect themselves, peers, staff and their property
- behave in a safe, fair and courteous manner at all times including travelling to and from school
- speak politely and use appropriate language in the classroom, yard, during all school activities and travelling to and from school
- care for their own and others health and well-being and be aware of items prohibited by the college
- care for school facilities and the environment
- comply with the school's uniform policy and wear it in a neat and tidy manner
- comply with college expectations in relation to the use of lockers and bags
- accept responsibility for inappropriate behaviours, including any resulting sanctions, and work in a cooperative manner to resolve the issue.

Support for Students

To encourage appropriate behaviour from students in a manner that enables them to exercise personal responsibility and self-discipline.

The College fosters a positive school culture which promotes belonging and well-being. The Principles of Classroom Management underpin a positive approach to behaviour management and are detailed in Appendix B.

The following support structures have been implemented:

- using "shared responsibility", restorative practice, to develop strong social relationships
- access to a team of learning support coordinators, student managers and school managers
- access to specialist welfare and referral services, including college chaplain
- using positive reinforcement to encourage to success - positive behaviour is rewarded and acknowledged and contributes to individual points, which are recorded on compass and can be seen by parents, staff and students.
- provision of a comprehensive student leadership and development program
- implementation of an anti-harassment/anti-bullying policy
- provision of peer support, peer mentors and peer mediation programs
- regular monitoring of student progress, attendance, participation and welfare.

Consequences for Appropriate Behaviours

- The consequences of active learning and acceptable behaviour are positive and include:
 - worthwhile learning outcomes, including acknowledgement of achievements and effort
 - reward and praise, which support an enhanced sense of self worth
 - communication with parents/guardians about students' educational development.

Actions and Consequences for Inappropriate Behaviours

Corporal Punishment

- Corporal Punishment is prohibited in all Victorian schools.
- Corporal punishment must not be used at the School under any circumstances.
- The administration of sanctions will be implemented in accordance with the Department of Education (DET) guidelines.

Consequences

- Breaches of this Policy and the administration of sanctions will be implemented in accordance with the Department of Education (DET) guidelines.
- A graded series of consequences that emphasise the importance of self-control, responsibility and ownership of one's behaviour will be implemented and enforced.
- All breaches of the College Student Code of Conduct may incur consequences.
 - consequences for breaches may include: community service, respite, detentions, suspensions, suspension conferences and possible expulsion, and in serious cases, Police referral
 - strategies will be put in place to assist the student to prevent subsequent breaches of the College rules.

Related Legislation and Policies

- [DET Promoting Positive Behaviour and Preventing Behaviour Issues](#)
- [DET Disciplinary Measures](#)
- [DET Discipline Resources](#)
- WSC Student Engagement, Wellbeing and Inclusion Policy

Appendices

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This Policy was last ratified by School Council in: 2017