

## Mount Annan Christian College Parent Code of Conduct

**Date: October 2022**

**Approved: Executive**

At Mount Annan Christian College we have a wonderful body of parents (including carers and extended family) who are involved in all aspects of school life. They provide critical support to the school, its teachers and students. As such, this Parent Code of Conduct has been created to assist in clarifying expectations for parents, students and staff so that we can work together to ensure a safe and positive school environment for our children.

The Code highlights the importance of the partnership between College staff and community members for the benefit of the students at school and reflects the College's vision and values.

This Code has been developed so that parents and those with parental responsibilities are aware of and meet the College's expectations with regard to their interaction with the College, its teachers, other parents and students. Adherence to this Code is paramount to promote positive and productive relationships within the College community.

### **Role of the College Generally**

The College is responsible for establishing and administering the policies, procedures and rules which govern the day to day operations of the College. It is important that parents recognise and respect this, adhere and have their children adhere to the College's requirements, and support these decisions.

### **Interactions Generally**

Communications whether verbal or in writing with other members of the College community whether teachers, administration staff, other parents or students should:

- show respect, courtesy and consideration;
- avoid harassment or bullying of another person;
- use temperate language (avoiding insults or profanities);
- and be productive in working towards a resolution (not confrontational, aggressive or intimidating)

Social media should not be used to criticise or denigrate others in the College community.

Any pages/accounts/groups on social media using the MACC brand (including pages specifically established for communication amongst parents/carers of MACC students) must be approved by MACC and have one of MACC's approved staff as an Administrator of the page/account/group.

### **Student Management and Discipline**

The College expects students to comply with its rules and not engage in behaviour which is harmful to others or is contrary to the ethos and philosophy of the College. Parents are expected to support the College in relation to its student management and discipline policies and not do anything which undermines its authority. It must be understood that in the case of minor disciplinary matters, the

College will be the arbiter of what took place and what is a fair consequence. It will not engage in debate about the details of the conduct for the appropriateness of the consequence.

Whilst matters of student management will be dealt with according to the discipline policy, the College values parent input and the reciprocal nature of the home school relationship is both nurtured and esteemed at MACC. The nuances of individual circumstances are considered through a relational approach to all student management matters.

In relation to more serious disciplinary matters which may result in suspension or expulsion the College will inform parents of the matter and will deal with it in accordance with the College's disciplinary policy. While parents will be consulted, the final decision will be with the College.

### **Interaction with Staff**

The College conducts regular meetings between staff and parents at which the student's progress can be discussed. There may be other times when a parent or staff member requests a meeting to discuss particular issues that may arise during the course of a student's schooling.

If a parent wishes to meet with a staff member, they should make an appointment so that a mutually convenient time can be arranged. This can be done through the College office.

Parents should never attempt to contact a staff member at their home, unless the staff member requests this.

At times, a parent may email a staff member after school hours. While a staff member may respond soon after, the parent should wait until the following day for a response.

Parents also can make an appointment to see the Headmaster about any particular concerns they may have relating to their son or daughter.

It is important that parents show respect for staff and not publicly criticise them or seek to undermine their authority. If a parent has a particular concern about a member of staff, they can raise it with the staff member concerned or with the Headmaster. However when doing so they should observe the general rules of conduct set out in this Code.

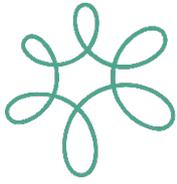
The College has a duty of care to protect all staff and for this reason any aggressive or abusive behavior (whether verbal or written) will not be tolerated.

Parents must not approach another student in a negative or abusive manner, at the College or outside of College grounds, when referring to a matter that the College is responsible to address.

### **Complaints**

If a parent has a complaint about an issue, this should be directed to the Headmaster or to the teacher responsible for the particular area of activity.

If a parent wishes to make a complaint, they should not use rude or abusive language. This is not productive and can make it harder to resolve concerns.



### **Sport**

Parents are welcome to attend sporting events, but should exercise restraint when supporting College teams. In particular, they should not abuse, threaten or otherwise seek to intimidate an umpire or referee or be directed against a player, or any College representatives.

The Sports coaches at the College pick teams based on their view of the most appropriate selection at the relevant time. It is not appropriate for parents to complain about the failure of their son or daughter to be picked for a particular team.

Where parents wish to provide feedback or ask questions about items relating to sport, they may speak to the relevant teacher, or the appropriate Head of School.

### **Separated Parents**

Where some students have parents that are separated or divorced, parents should not attempt to involve the College in any parental dispute that may arise. The College is not able to make judgements on the merits of claims made by one parent against another and should not be asked to do so. Nor should it be asked to take any action which would or is designed to disadvantage one party. The College will of course, observe any orders made by a Court in relation to a student or communications with parents.

### **Failure to Observe this Code**

If a parent fails to observe this Code after being warned about a breach, the College may:

- limit access to a teacher or teachers;
- limit access to the College premises or sporting or other College events; or
- terminate the enrolment of the student.
- Refer the matter to other authorities.