

Parental Code of Conduct

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

Role of the School Generally

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

Discipline

The School expects students to comply with its rules and not engage in behaviour that is harmful to others or contrary to the school's ethos and philosophy. Parents are expected to support the School concerning its discipline policy and not do anything that undermines its authority. It must be understood that in the case of minor disciplinary matters, the School will be the arbiter of what took place and what is a fair punishment it will not engage in debate about the details of the conduct for the appropriateness of the punishment.

Concerning more disciplinary matters which may result in suspension or expulsion the School will inform parents of the matter. It will deal with it under the School's disciplinary policy. While parents will be consulted, the final decision will be the School's.

Interaction with Staff

The School conducts regular meetings between staff and parents to discuss the student's progress. Other times, a parent or staff member may request a meeting to discuss particular issues that may arise during a student's schooling.

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

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

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

It is essential 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, the Head of School or with the Executive Principal. However, when doing so, they should observe the general rules of conduct in this Code.

The School has a duty of care to protect all staff, so any aggressive or abusive behavior will not be tolerated.

Complaints

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

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

Interactions Generally

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

- show respect, courtesy, and consideration;
- not harass or bully another person;
- not use intemperate language, and
- not be confrontational.

Social media must not be used to criticise or denigrate others in the school community, including the staff of Hunter Christian School.

Sport

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

The Sports coaches at the School 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 child to be picked for a particular team.

Separated Parents

Some students have parents who are separated or divorced. Parents should not attempt to involve the School in any parental dispute that may arise. The School cannot judge 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 School will observe any orders made by a Court concerning 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 School may:

- limit access to a teacher or teachers;
- limit access to the school premises or sporting or other school events; or
- terminate the enrolment of the student.