

Young Adolescent Code of Conduct

Introduction

While attending school during regular hours or during school-sponsored activities, young adolescents are expected to follow the principles and expectation described in this Code of Conduct.

This Code of Conduct provides guidance on general conduct which is expected and that which is prohibited. It is not an exhaustive list of what constitutes misconduct. Young Adolescents will be held accountable for their misconduct as detailed in the "Breach of this Code" paragraph and may be asked to complete a Seeking Solutions and Feedback form.

Our school is committed to ensuring a respectful learning environment that is a brave space and positive and supportive for all children. This Young Adolescent Code of Conduct applies to all children in the Young Adolescent Cluster regarding the conduct expected of them whilst at school, engaging in school related activities or representing the school. Children are expected to uphold the School's core values at all times.

This Code applies to all activities and events that are school-related and when representing or acting on behalf of the School. The code also requires that young adolescent actions do not bring the school into disrepute at any time regardless of whether the action occurs within or outside of school activities.

In general, the aim of this Code is to ensure that the school is a brave space and a pleasant place in which learning takes place, that the property and reputation of the school is protected and that students develop self-discipline and consideration for others.

Scope and Application

This Code applies to all children in the Young Adolescent Cluster (YAC) cohort at Child Side School. This Code will be reviewed and amended at least bi-yearly in accordance with Child Side School Policy on Policies and Policy Guidelines and Procedures Contents Schedule.

The use of the word child/children, young adolescents or YAC's in this policy refers to students in the context of the school environment.

Young Adolescents are expected and supported to:

- BE SAFE, BE KIND, BE CREATIVE.

Young Adolescents have a responsibility to;

- accept and comply with school policies regarding positive behaviour,
- act and work co-operatively with other children and educators,
- respect the learning needs of all children,
- take progressive responsibility for their own learning, to work consistently and complete tasks as required,
- be tolerant of differences such as race, culture and ability,
- be punctual and regular in attendance,

Young Adolescents have a right to;

- feel safe within the school,
- learn in a challenging environment to the best of their ability,
- be treated with respect by other children and educators,
- be listened to.

Behaviours not permitted

The following list provide some clear boundaries, linked to our overarching principles, to enhance understanding of the types of behaviours that are not allowed under the Young Adolescent Code of Conduct. This is not an exhaustive list.

YAC's must not:

- do anything which may bring the School into disrepute including by making or publishing false or misleading statements relating to the School, School staff or other children
- physically touch, bully or sexually engage with students or others in a manner which is not appropriate and may endanger the health, safety and wellbeing of that person
- engage in any form of physical or verbal violence including fighting, assault or threats of violence
- engage in any form of cyber bullying or cyber abuse
- send inappropriate, offensive or explicit text messages, photos or videos
- use an electronic device (including school l pads) to take or record intimate or inappropriate images;
- stealing or taking or using without permission any property of any person or possessing property which is stolen or taken without permission;
- using or providing false or misleading documentation or information for the purpose of obtaining a benefit or advantage for any person
- Plagiarism – you must not present anyone else's work as if it were yours.
- do anything which may endanger the physical or mental health, safety or wellbeing of any person

Breach of rights

YAC's must not:

- cause physical or emotional harm to any person or bully any person
- engage in violent or threatening behaviour including by using threatening or abusive language
- conduct himself or herself in an offensive manner or use offensive language, on or near, or within view or hearing from School premises or whilst engaged in School activities
- use language or conduct which is likely to offend, harass, bully or unfairly discriminate against any student, teacher, contractor or visitor;
- use inappropriate or profane words or gestures and images;

Alcohol and drugs

YAC's must not:

- consume or distribute alcohol or any illegal drugs on School property or during a School organised event;
- smoke or consume alcohol or illicit drugs at School, on School excursions, in transit between School and home or otherwise while wearing School uniform;
- must not attend School, social, sporting or other functions as a representative of the School whilst under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs or other substances harmful to health.

Property

YAC'S must not:

- damage, destroy, endanger, vandalise, put at risk, pollute or obstruct any School property or any property of any member of the School staff;
- enter, occupy, use or interfere with any School property or enable any other person to do so, without authorisation from the School;
- steal or misuse School resources or fraudulently use school resources.

Co-operation

YAC's must not:

- disobey a reasonable direction given by a School staff member

General

YAC's must not:

- incite, persuade, conspire with or assist any other person to engage in misconduct;
- attempt or threaten to do anything which is misconduct;

- be party to any cover-up of misconduct or the destruction, concealment, alteration or withholding of any evidence of misconduct or otherwise conceal the identity or whereabouts of any person who is alleged to have engaged in misconduct;
- publish or display material which could be understood by a reasonable person as indicating that somebody intends to engage in misconduct.

Attendance

YAC's:

- shall be punctual;
- who are going to be absent from school must provide explanations from their parents or guardians and sign the In/Out book in the MAG room;
- shall not leave the school grounds during the day, except on official school excursions.

In supporting children to comply with the expectations above, staff model, unpack and provide many examples of how to comply eg what it sounds like, looks like and feels like to BE SAFE, BE KIND, BE CREATIVE. This focus endeavours to prevent bullying, harassment and other forms of peer-to-peer abuse. Educators review the Children's Code of Conduct with children regularly but especially at the beginning of each term and when new children enter into the class as part of their induction.

Breach of this Code

Children

In the first instance if children breach this code they will be reminded and shown how to comply with the code. This is often an opportunity for the class educator or Senior Educator to remind all of the children through a class meeting and children are often asked to sign the floor book to say that they have been part of the meeting and agree to comply with the actions that have been discussed. For repeated breaches or breaches of a more serious nature one or more of the following steps may be implemented at the discretion of the Educator and or leadership team:

- Child will be asked to give back eg wash the other person's dish for a day/week, fix or replace the broken object etc
- Child will be asked to draw or write about what happened and what they would do differently next time
- An LTD (Learning Team Debrief) will be called so that the behaviours can be discussed with the child's parents as well as the child
- Child will be asked to be shadowed by a parent at school for a day/week
- Child may be told that they are not able to participate in an incursion or excursion until they can restore trust with the supervising educators through demonstration of appropriate behaviours
- Child may be told that they need to spend some time at home to focus on restorative justice processes and or access professional help before they are allowed to return to school
- Child and parents may be asked to seek support from external agencies to school

Child Side School explicitly forbids the use of any form of child abuse, corporal punishment or other degrading punishment.

Child abuse

Four forms of child abuse are covered by WA law and are defined by the Department of Communities:

- (1) Physical abuse occurs when a child is severely and/or persistently hurt or injured by an adult or caregiver.
- (2) Sexual abuse occurs when a child is exposed to, or involved in, sexual activity that is inappropriate to the child's age and developmental level, and includes sexual behaviour in circumstances where:
 - (a) the child is the subject of bribery, coercion, a threat, exploitation or violence;
 - (b) the child has less power than another person involved in the behaviour; or
 - (c) there is a significant disparity in the developmental function or maturity of the child and another person involved in the behaviour.
- (3) Emotional abuse includes:
 - (a) psychological abuse; and
 - (b) being exposed to an act of family and domestic violence.

- (4) Neglect is when children do not receive adequate food or shelter, medical treatment, supervision, care or nurturance to such an extent that their development is damaged or they are injured. Neglect may be acute, episodic or chronic.

Corporal punishment:

Any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light; typically involving hitting the child with the hand or with an implement; can also include, for example, forcing the child to stay in an uncomfortable position. It does not include the use of reasonable physical restraint to protect the child or others from harm.

Degrading punishment:

Any punishment which is incompatible with respect for human dignity, including corporal punishment and non-physical punishment which belittles, humiliates, denigrates, scapegoats, threatens, scares or ridicules the child.

Version Management

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