

Christian College Geelong – Parental Acceptable Conduct

One of the keys to fostering successful education is through the development of a partnership between the College and your family. Christian College Geelong expects that you will engage positively with us as partners in your child's education and development.

This parental acceptable conduct document outlines some specific things that you, in return, can do to assist us in supporting and educating your child. It outlines our key expectations of you and our understandings with respect to key matters such as wellbeing, pastoral care, and conflict resolution.

Expectations:

- 1 Parents/Guardians have read, understood and foster the College's Philosophical Statement and the values of Faith, Love, Truth, Hope and Grace. Parents/guardians will support their child's daily participation in the Christian life of the College and its programs.
- 2 It is our collective goal to develop student independence, and a sense of responsibility for their own lives and their own actions. Both the College and parents/guardians will appreciate the importance of respect for the individual and his/her rights, including the right to confidentiality.
- 3 Whenever possible and appropriate, parents/guardians will attend key College functions/meetings and involve themselves in the College community. (Key School functions may include, but are not limited to: Parent Information Nights; Parent/Teacher/Student Learning Conferences; other collective or individual parent information meetings as requested from time to time.)
- 4 Parents/guardians will communicate any concerns directly with the College via the appropriate staff member. Parents/guardians will recognise the damage that gossip can do within a community and avoid uninformed speculation. If concerned, you will clarify the matter directly with a staff member from the College, usually the Homeroom/Housegroup teacher in the first instance.
- 5 Parents/guardians will refrain from making defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the College, or any of the students/parents/staff on Facebook, Instagram or any other social media sites. Social media platforms should not be used as a means to voice grievances about the College.
- 6 Parents/guardians will not post photographs on any social media site of students or staff representing the College if they have the potential to bring negative connotations towards the College, its staff or students.
- 7 Parents/guardians understand that the Camps Program is an integral part of the College program (and therefore, not optional). Special requests for a child to be withdrawn for sound educational or personal reasons, will of course be considered, however, such requests need to be timely – i.e. well in advance of the activity. The general expectation, however, is that all students will attend, and year level Camps are costed in the College fees accordingly.
- 8 Parents/guardians understand the priority of class time and will minimise any student absences and provide the College appropriate explanations for any absences, especially if extended. Parents/guardians will also provide adequate advanced notice of any planned absences and/or holidays in writing to the Head of Campus.

- 9 In order for the College to provide effective and suitable programs for students, parents/guardians will provide us with timely, appropriate, and relevant personal information about their child. This includes information about specific learning needs (educational, health, behavioural), specific family developments or arrangements (e.g. separation, divorce, shared care, family illnesses impacting your child, etc.), specific emotional concerns of the child and contact details. (This information will be dealt with sensitively according to the College's Privacy Policy.)
- 10 Disciplinary matters involving children are often complex. We strive to make students aware that their poor behaviour affects others and make them aware of their responsibility to their school community norms. Thus, our primary aim in any disciplinary situation is resolution of the problem, restitution of harmonious relationships, and growth of the individual. Our approach to conflict resolution involves the principles of restorative practices. Through this approach, we attempt to bring about repair and restoration of relationships.

Furthermore, our approach is flexible: it will take into account the individuals involved and the circumstances. We will not discuss publicly the details of discipline incidents involving children and will only talk with the parties directly involved. It is our expectation that parents will support us with respect to these approaches.

- 11 Resolving conflict between students, should be directed through the College and not 'parent to parent' or 'parent to other student', although the conflict may arise outside of school hours or online. This is particularly important where the issue is suspected bullying, either in person or online or via Social Media platforms. The College will be involved in conflicts and behaviour outside school hours where the effects of this behaviour play out at school and directly impact our College community.
- 12 It is our expectation that parents/guardians will assist the College in modelling appropriate behaviours for their children. These include and not limited to:
- calm and rational dispute resolution
 - a respectful manner in dealing with others (staff and other parents), including the avoidance of hostile confrontation, intimidating/ bullying behaviour, abuse or aggression
 - respect for appropriate ways to raise such issues e.g. face to face where possible (or at least person to person on the phone); with appropriate notice (e.g. make an appointment before coming in and let the staff member know something of the matter you wish to discuss); via the appropriate channels and College personnel.
- 13 Parents/guardians will **not** attempt to involve the College or its staff in disputes between two parents of a family, especially in situations involving marital disharmony, separation, or divorce. The College will provide equal access to and information about children to both parents as specified under Family Law legislation unless provided with valid Family Court Orders to the contrary.

The College reserves the right to terminate a student's enrolment (with or without notice) where the student (or the student's parents/guardians) breach these Terms of Enrolment, or where the student (or the student's parents/guardians) has an influence harmful to the interests of the College, its staff or students, or where the College is not satisfied it can meet the necessary needs of the student.