



PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

At Poowong Consolidated School we believe in promoting a positive school culture, based on positive behaviours and values, that seeks to increase student wellbeing and learning. We understand that student wellbeing is everyone's responsibility and that social and emotional wellbeing underpin effective student learning and positive behaviour. Poowong is an engaging and inclusive school where respect and resilience are core values of the school's philosophy (Poowong Consolidated School Student Engagement Policy). Poowong Consolidated School actively promotes and nurtures a partnership approach to education. It acknowledges the role parents/ carers play in their children's learning and the contributions they make to the school.

PURPOSE

This Parent Code of Conduct is intended to provide school community members with protocols and procedures for appropriate conduct and the development of positive relationships within the school community. At Poowong Consolidated School, we have strong core values which enable students to manage themselves in a socially competent manner.

At Poowong Consolidated School we aim to be a leading learning community in South Gippsland, delivering outstanding education to the children of Poowong and surrounds. We empower students to acquire, demonstrate, articulate and value knowledge and skills that will support them, as life-long learners, to participate in and contribute to the local community, as well as the global world, and practice the core values of the school: Striving for Personal Best, Excellence in Learning, Respect, Independence, Resilience and Community.

Explicit pro-social values and expectations for behaviour are in accordance with our vision and values, which will be modelled and promoted by staff, students and the parent community. Our School Wide Positive Behaviours focus ensures that student are always aware of their responsibilities within the school environment.

We expect that Poowong Consolidated School parents will demonstrate the school values at all times within the school setting.

Our school values are: Striving for Personal Best, Excellence in Learning, Respect for Self and Others, Independence, Resilience and Sense of Community.

POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS

At PCS we recognise the extraordinary responsibility and privilege it is to educate our students- your children. We believe that the development of successful partnerships with parents/carers and families assists the development of the whole child. Parents/carers are encouraged to actively participate in supporting their child's learning by building a positive relationship with the school. Poowong Consolidated School encourages positive parent involvement through shared responsibility for your child's learning progress and development. Your participation is welcomed in school and classroom programs and activities such as School Council, working bees, classroom assistance and attendance at school events. Your involvement, interest and commitment to your child's education is crucial to their development.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents/carers are encouraged to understand the school's behavioural expectations, which aim to provide a consistent approach that support your child's learning and engagement in and out of

school. This is assisted by home to school and school to home communication, so that we work in an effective partnership.

Staff have the right to conduct their work in a supportive, non-threatening environment, free from harassment, threats and intimidation. Any actions that contradict these violate the Fair Work Act, and will not be accepted at Poowong Consolidated School. Any behaviour that threatens, intimidates or harasses members of staff will result in the matter being referred to the DE&T Legal Division. In extreme cases it may be deemed necessary to apply for an Intervention Order on behalf of the school.

Listed below are expectations pertaining to a positive partnership:

Parents /Carers have the right to:

Participate in a happy, safe, secure and satisfying environment
Be heard and treated with respect by all members of the school community
Be informed about your child's educational progress and behaviour
Have access to staff at convenient, mutually agreed times
Be kept informed and included in decision making and policy development
Report instances of concern/issues/incidents involving your child

Parents /Carers have the responsibility to:

Support the school in its effort to maintain a positive teaching and learning environment
Act in a safe and responsible manner
Listen to, and treat members of the school community with respect
Communicate and act on information regarding the educational and social development of your child
Make an appointment and attend at the mutually agreed time
Support school policies and decision-making processes
Allow procedures to be followed as stipulated in school policies
Maintain a solution-focussed approach to solving issues in a calm and cooperative manner
Treat the staff and principal with respect remembering your tone of voice and body language used when raising a concern
Use a "No Triangles" or "No Third Party" approach- if issues arise, this is taken up with the person concerned, not discussed via a third party or on a "Telephone Tree" as this continues issues, information becomes distorted and people are unable to move forward.
Show faith in the school's attempt at fair, consistent and reasonable actions and consequences, when dealing with issues that occur within the school.
Ensure all Facebook posts, both on the school page as well as on personal pages, about the school, the teachers and Principal are kept on a positive. Any negative or defamatory posts may be referred to the Legal Division of the Department of Education.

PROTOCOL FOR ISSUE RESOLUTION

All of our students have the right to feel safe and comfortable at school. There may be times when you feel that the action of another child has infringed the rights of your own child.

All school issues are to be handled by the staff of the school. We attempt to resolve these through:

- Calm discussions between the parties directly involved whilst respecting the dignity of each and every person. This is done using a Restorative Practices approach.
- Being prepared to actively listen to another's point of view
- Allowing correct procedures to be followed to allow all parties to be heard

Parents should not directly approach other students or make contact with their families. This only serves to compound the issues and make them more difficult to resolve. We believe that most situations can be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

Under no circumstances is a parent or guardian to approach another child to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards their own child. Please try to have a positive and open mind. We all have bad days and at times events occur which don't always appear fair. We are dealing with young children and they are learning how to behave. It is often the case that the injustice was not intentional.

Approach situations with a spirit of cooperation, understanding and genuine partnership.

Where there is an issue with a staff member, this should be discussed first with that staff member in a tone of courtesy and respect. Aggressive tones, body language or groups of parents approaching staff members in a pack can be seen as harassment. This will not be tolerated at Poowong Consolidated School.

Discussions should be at a mutually agreed-upon time- not in the middle of the playground, corridor or at the end of the school day. Please remember, the teaching staff have teaching, yard duty and meeting obligations. It is important to remember that many parents often wish to catch up with the teacher before and after school. A communication book may be offered to you if you need daily contact with your child's teacher.

Please understand that if phone calls, emails and other connections with staff members are attempted outside of office hours (8.30 am until 4pm), the teacher may not be available to talk with you or to respond to your emails. Additionally, some of our staff only work on a part-time basis.

Text messages or phone calls to teachers' private mobile numbers and Facebook messages should not occur under any circumstances. If you have a staff member's mobile number for any reason, please be respectful of this privilege and use this only in circumstances that was set out when it was given to you. Staff are entitled to their privacy, their family time and respect that they have lives outside of their work life. All communication should be done in school hours, through the school and through the appropriate means.

WHO TO CONTACT

If you have a concern or issue relating to your child, please make use of the following steps:

1. Contact the class teacher first- they are in the best position to help you, as they know your child well and are directly responsible for them
2. If you feel that you have not had the follow-up you would like, or for urgent matters, please make an appointment to see the Principal.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on

August 2016