

Parent / Carer Code of Conduct

Rationale

As a family school, we acknowledge that families and educators are critical partners in a child's character development and learning success. We recognise that the first educators of children are parents. Parents play a formative role in the development of their child's sense of justice and equity and respecting the value of all members of our school community. As those who have the greatest capacity to reason and control their actions, and as influential role models for their children, the onus is on parents to promote and uphold the core values of our school community.

It is a clear expectation of our community, that all parents model acceptable behaviour at all times within the school setting. At MRIS we are very fortunate to have supportive and friendly parents. **We recognise that schools where parents are involved results in better outcomes for the students, and as such we encourage parents to participate fully in the life of our school.**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parent in our school about expected conduct so that we can work together to ensure a safe and positive school environment for our children.

Expected Parent Action

All parents are expected to abide by the action statements below to ensure the behaviours they model are appropriate at all times.

Parents complete the Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) course.

We can learn to model behaviours that help and support our children while at the same time create a learning atmosphere harmonious between school and home. At MRIS we use techniques from STEP, NVC and PATHS to resolve issues.

Parents support their child in all their educational endeavours by encouraging effort and showing interest in their school activities.

We can help our children discover that it is often the process or experience rather than the 'end product' that makes it all worthwhile; that giving of our very best is more intrinsically rewarding rather than comparing ourselves with the capabilities of others.

Parents read the school newsletter, stay informed of school activities and are involved in the school community.

The newsletter is the primary means of communication of what is happening at the school and ensuring a shared approach to education. The importance our school places on family involvement is reflected in the required flexible commitment contribution. Parents get involved and support our school community in many ways and regularly log the time they commit.

Parent behaviour for ensuring all our children have the right to feel safe at school.

There may be times when you feel that the actions of another child have infringed upon the rights of your own child. Under no circumstances is a parent to approach another child whilst they are in the care of the school to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards their own child. It is appropriate to approach the class teacher or the Principal to seek their intervention in bringing about an equitable and peaceful solution to the situation.

Parents as part of the MRIS community do not tolerate bullying.

This is as true for adult-to-adult interaction as it is for child-to-child. Instances of bullying must quickly be brought to the attention of the school staff so that justice may be achieved for all involved in the conflict.

Parents can choose to be positive even in challenging times.

We all have bad days and, at times, events occur which don't always appear fair. However it is often the case that an injustice was not intentional, and many times not even apparent to others. Always approach these situations in a spirit of co-operation and genuine partnership. It is amazing how easily and quickly most situations can be resolved with STEP, NVC or Virtues strategies.

Parents show awareness that a child's perception is not the same as an adult's due to developmental maturity.

A child is not necessarily lying when their story conflicts with another or when the teacher's perspective does not match what you have been told at home. Children see their world through their own limited experiences, which colour their perceptions. Adult perceptions are balanced with life experiences. Reflectively listen to your child as they tell you their 'reality', but remember that a different 'reality' may possibly exist elsewhere. Open, honest discussion with school staff is essential in these situations.

Parents understand that children may and do act differently at home and school.

When faced with an audience of their own peers often children will act/react in a way, which appears completely out of character to you and the saying "My child wouldn't do that", might not hold for all situations. As parents, we are open to all possibilities.

Parents protect people's good name.

Problems, differences of opinion and personality clashes are not resolved by involving other people in a disagreement or by taking sides in an argument. We resolve these issues through calm dialogue between the parties directly involved whilst respecting the dignity of each and every person.

Parents separate opinion from fact.

An approach to the relevant personnel within the school to verify the factual basis of a story can assist in allaying fears of an event in question and the intent involved.

Parents reflectively listen to another's point of view.

It may be that the perspective from which the parent is approaching the situation is foreign to the other party and each are of equal value.

Parents follow correct procedures in times of conflict to ensure all parties are heard and for harmonious solutions to be reached.

If the conflict centres on a classroom issue, the first approach should always be made with the classroom teacher. If a resolution is not reached, then it is appropriate to involve the Principal. Should the matter result from a situation outside of classroom matters, then it is appropriate to discuss this with the Principal in the first instance. If parents remain dissatisfied with the result, then a formal complaint can be made using the Complaints and Disputes Policy.

Parents are respectful and responsible in all areas relevant to the school or each other.

Social media is increasingly being used in campaigns and complaints against schools, Principals, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. MRIS considers the use of social media being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher or the Principal so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by any member of the school community to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. MRIS will consider this as a serious incident of school bullying.

Parents support MRIS to be a peaceful and safe school environment with the following behaviours:

- Respectful behaviours which do not interfere with the operation of a classroom, an office area or any other part of the school grounds.
- Use of calm, polite language and respectful behaviour.
- Eschew any verbal or physical threat of harm towards another adult or child.
- Care for school property, resources and the bush.
- Emails, phone calls and social network messages are to be courteous.
- Park with consideration and respect when delivering and collecting children from school

- Support the School as a No smoking site. Illicit substances or materials must not be brought onto school grounds. Alcohol must not be consumed during school hours; any event that entails alcohol consumption requires the express permission of the Principal. The site must not be accessed if intoxicated or under the influence of illicit drugs.

Consequences:

- Flouting the above required behaviours on the school premises will be reported to the appropriate authorities and where applicable, legal consequences will be pursued.
- The Principal may prohibit an offending adult from entering the school grounds to safeguard our school community.

MRIS thanks parents and carers for supporting this Code of Conduct and so ensure a positive environment for all.