



MELBOURNE
RUDOLF STEINER
SCHOOL

PARENT AND COMMUNITY CODE OF CONDUCT

For Parents and Community Members

It is our expectation that all members of our community cultivate positive, respectful attitudes towards each other and support the school by upholding its policies, procedures and values.

November 2022

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When teachers, students and their families join our school we expect them to join in a community life where:

- We all look after one another;
- We try to be helpful and open to others;
- We help look after the buildings and grounds;
- We are sensitive and open to beauty;
- We strive to maintain, and with maturity to build, a positive environment in which we will all grow to greater human freedom and expression.

We believe this leads to peace and deep happiness.

On a fundamental level this means:

- All behaviour and actions, communication and attitudes from the teachers, parents and school community needs to be free from all forms of abuse, discrimination, oppression and humiliation.
- Speak to adults and children with respect
- Treat school property with care and respect
- Don't consume or be under the influence of alcohol (aside from permitted events), drugs or illegal substances on the school premises. Smoking and vaping is prohibited on school grounds.
- Observe car parking and driving rules.
- Learn and cultivate positive attitudes.
- Support the school in upholding and supporting schools' policies, procedures and values.

Parents, Class Communities and Social Fabric

The school is like a living organism which requires love and support from all in order for it to thrive. This in part comes from building class communities where relationships can be formed, connections to teachers and the curriculum, and connection to the wider school community can grow. The social fabric is woven through these connections in many ways. Gestures such as supporting the class teacher and families, organising a meals tree for families in need, carpooling, holding families in their thoughts or prayers that need it, supporting school and class initiatives such as working bees, fair days, market days, festivals, music concerts, school camps, class projects all build a sense of community.

The broader community life of the school is not only supported by festivals, celebrations of our children, their work and performances but through school initiatives like the MRSS SCA NEST café. This social space is open in the mornings for our parents to meet with the intention of building social connections and to support the school community.

The School Community Association is a formal association and avenue for those parents, teachers and friends that feel they would like to contribute to the school via fundraising initiatives or voluntary work.

Parent Support and Engagement

There are particular areas that we request parents engage with and support the school. This engagement assists in supporting your child's education, the content of the curriculum, understanding of the pedagogy and philosophy of the school and education, supporting the class teacher and building connections with other families within the class.

For these reasons we request the following active engagement from parents and guardians in these following areas:

PARENT MEETINGS

Parents attend parent teacher meetings each term. These are held during the year and are an essential part of the school's educational philosophy. In these meetings the curriculum is explained in the light of how it supports the children at their particular age. We understand that it is not always possible to have all parents/guardians attend but request that at least one parent/guardian attend the meetings as a minimum.

PARENT HOLDING OF STEINER SCHOOL VALUES

The MRSS expects parents to familiarise themselves with the school's ethos, philosophy and parent handbook which guides families about the school's approach to education and engagement in home life that is necessary for the child and school to fully flourish. In particular; holding healthy daily rhythms, punctuality, space for daily interactions with nature particularly in early childhood and primary years, opportunities to create out of themselves, limited exposures to media and technology, healthy food choices, access to healthy play, all help to maintain an atmosphere of wonder and reverence.

Parents understand the philosophy of the school and Steiner Education in regards to the negative impact on the development of the child of electronic devices such as mobile phones, tablets, computers, games and televisions. They will strive to be very conscious of the usage and content of such devices regardless of the age of their child.

The school would like to hold a space for the children that promotes communication and engagement through the gift of human contact, conversation and endeavour free from the distraction of outside influences. We ask that parents refrain from using mobile phone devices on the school premises and if there is a need to, we ask that they please step into the school office.

Parents understand the importance that children under ten years of age are given the opportunity to fully rest after a busy school day. Until children reach class four they have not developed a sufficient sense of self to be able to engage in competitive sport in a healthy manner. We strongly advise that activities outside of school are limited during the kindergarten and early class teacher period.

PARENT COLLABORATION WITH CLASS TEACHER / GUARDIANS

Parents work in collaboration with the class teacher/ guardian on any issues that may arise and need support from parents to help support the child with or through the issue.

Parents stay open to and consider the class teachers' or guardians' recommendations for support for their child.

Parents are familiar with the school's policy and procedures and that they support the school or class teacher guardian in this area.

Working in collaboration with the class teacher/guardian and or school with issues of a more serious nature that may arise and holding a supportive and open attitude to disciplinary actions and support mechanisms to help support the child.

Ensure that parents follow the MRSS avenues of communication protocols for any requirement or request for the need for discussions and communication that is required with the class teacher and or guardian. Please ensure that a mutually agreeable time is organised for both parties so that the class teacher can be prepared and give one's full attention to the matter.

Class email lists are provided as a means of communication between families for organising class events such as class dinners, class fair meetings, etc. Under no circumstances are social media platforms or parents' private emails to be used for personal gain or to disseminate information of a derogatory or inflammatory nature about the school, staff, students or parents/guardians of students. Please refer to our "Who Can I talk to if I have a concern?" and our *Complaints and Grievances Policy*. Similarly, the distribution of written defamatory information, or verbal defamatory information will not be tolerated.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct

Parents, Guardians, Carers and families are expected to follow and embrace this code of conduct.

Parents, Guardians and Carers are expected to have their child's school fees paid up to date.

Parents, Guardians and Carers are expected to be familiar with other MRSS policies.

Serious breaches of this code or repeated breaches of a less serious nature which constitute a breakdown in the relationship between the family and the school may lead to a discontinuation of the enrolment.

In acknowledgement that you have read and agree to the requests in this code of conduct please print your name, sign and date below.

Parent Name.....

Parent Signature.....Date.....

Parent Name.....

Parent Signature.....Date.....