

Student Child Safe Code of Conduct

Purpose

At The McDonald College we recognise that effective learning can only occur in a secure environment where the dignity, rights and responsibilities of others are known and respected and where standards and rules are fairly and consistently applied.

The Student Child Safe Code of Conduct has been developed to clearly set out child safe standards of behaviour that students are expected to abide by.

The McDonald College uses a variety of strategies to consult with students when considering the Student Child Safe Code of Conduct. These may include surveys, discussion groups, consultation with the student representative body or other means. For more information, refer to Participation and Empowerment of Students.

Source of Obligation

Section 47(1) of the Education Act 1990 (NSW) sets out 14 requirements for registration for non-government schools in NSW. One of these requirements, under section 47(1)(g) of the Education Act, is that "a safe and supportive environment is provided for students".

The NSW Education Standards Authority's (NESA) provides guidance on how to meet these obligations in section B8.1 of the Registered and Accredited Individual Non-government Schools Manual (NSW) Manual (Registration Manual).

One of the requirements for registration is that The McDonald College has and implements codes of conduct for members of The McDonald College community, with specific references to the rights and responsibilities of students and staff

Standard 2 of the NSW Child Safe Standards and Principle 2 of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations require The McDonald College to ensure that children and young people are made aware of their rights, including their right to be safe from harm, and that they are provided with age-appropriate information about safe and respectful peer relationships.

Roles and Responsibilities

Managing the Student Child Safe Code of Conduct is a shared responsibility between students, parents/carers and The McDonald College. All students and families have ready access to support offered by teachers, Staff and The McDonald College Child Safe Champions.

The McDonald College's Values

The Student Child Safe Code of Conduct is based on The McDonald College's values. College Values Students and staff at the College give a commitment to the five values pertinent to our College community.

- HUMILITY
- HONOUR
- PASSION
- COMMITMENT
- APPRECIATION

The five values influence how we respond in all that we do. They are based on national Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools. These values are especially relevant to the character of person we aspire to become.

Students' Rights

Students have the right to:

- I have the right to learn, ask questions, and voice my opinion in a respectful and considered manner.
- I have the right to be happy and to form my own friendships.
- I have the right to be safe, respected and to be accepted for who I am.
- I have the right to be treated fairly and justly.

Every student and their family are expected to represent the values of the College as articulated in the Code of Conduct and the wider community. Should a student bring the College or another student into serious disrepute by behaviour or action, that behaviour or action could result in the most serious consequences.

The College policies apply outside school hours and offsite where there is a clear and close connection between the College and the conduct of students. The College reserves the right to discipline students in these circumstances.

Students' Responsibilities

At The McDonald College, students are expected to act with honour, humility, appreciation, commitment, and passion. All College members are to be respectful, have integrity and cooperate with each other at all times.

Respect for the College

- I will comply with the Student Charter.
- I will represent the College with pride at all times.
- I will wear the College uniform as outlined in the Student Diary.
- I will actively participate in all aspects of learning and performing at the College. ● I will not degrade the College or its staff on any social media platforms.

Respect for others

- I will treat others with respect and dignity and value individual differences.
- I will refrain from hurtful behaviour in person and online.
- I will contribute to a positive learning and performing environment.
- I will have respect for myself.
- I will hold high expectations of myself and value collaboration and support for my peers.
- I will do my best in all aspects of learning and performing.
- I will represent my family with respect and appreciation.
- I will not degrade others, and I will not stand by silently if I see an injustice.

Respect for property

- I will respect College property and every member of the College community. I have the responsibility to care for my own property.
- I will report any instance where I see a person failing to respect another student or the College's resources or equipment.

For more information, refer to [Bullying Prevention and Intervention](#), [Social Media – Student Usage and Harassment Policy \(Student Against Student\)](#).

Consequences for Breaching the Student Code of Conduct

Students are expected to observe and uphold the above rights and responsibilities.

Students are also expected to abide by The McDonald College rules and the policies of The McDonald College, as well as the directions of teachers.

A breach of this Student Code of Conduct, The McDonald College rules or policy will be dealt with according to our [Student Discipline Policy](#), but The McDonald College will also support the student to address and mitigate behaviours that are not in line with the Code and any underlying factors.

Raising Concerns About Safety

Whenever there are concerns that a child or young person is in immediate danger, call the Police on 000.

Any person, including all Staff, Volunteers, Contractors, parents/carers and students, can at any time contact the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child or young person (aged under 18), or a class of children or young persons, is at risk of significant harm.

Voluntary reports to DCJ can be made by calling the Child Protection Helpline on 132 111 or 1800 212 936 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

If a student has concerns about their safety, or the behaviour of others, it's important that they tell a trusted adult. This could be a parent or carer, a trusted teacher or a College Child Safe Champion.

Our Staff are committed to ensuring that all students feel empowered to speak up and be heard and will take all concerns raised by students seriously and ensure that the student receives ongoing support.

The McDonald College provides all students with information about and encourages them to use multiple pathways to raise child safety concerns about or at The McDonald College, including concerns about the behaviour of other students. These include informal and formal ways, an 'anonymous' way, and through external child advocacy or child safety organisations.

A child-friendly version of our Child Safe Complaints Management policy, which explains these different pathways, is available in our College Student Diary.