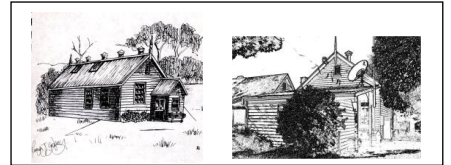


PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Daylesford Primary School &
Yandoit Primary School



RATIONALE

Daylesford and Yandoit primary schools welcome community participation and values its input. Parents play a crucial role in the academic, social, emotional and physical development of their children. Our schools are committed to ensuring that children feel happy, safe and secure, and have the maximum opportunity to learn. As members of the school community parents are expected to conduct themselves in a lawful, ethical, safe and responsible manner that recognises and respects the rights of others and the expertise, experience and qualifications of staff. The Parent Code of Conduct Policy provides statements which serve as a reminder to all members of the school community of their obligations as a member of the Daylesford and Yandoit Primary School communities.

PURPOSE

This policy applies to all adults including parents, guardians, step-parents, grandparents, extended family, advocates and any others involved in activities or communication related to Daylesford and Yandoit Primary Schools.

The Parent Code of Conduct works alongside the school values of kindness, creativity and connection. The health and welfare of all members of our school communities is important. All children and school staff have the right to feel safe at school. Parents/caregivers play a formative role in the development of a child's sense of justice, equity, and the dignity and worth of all members of our school community. They act as one of the most influential role models within a child's life. The responsibility for upholding the values of the school in this matter must fall on those with the greatest capacity to reason and control their actions. As such the adult community of our school is expected to model courteous behaviour and treat all members of the school community with respect and consideration.

GUIDELINES

As a minimum, all members of the school community are expected to behave with respect, civility and in the manner of a responsible citizen.

- There may be times when it is felt the actions of a member of the school community have infringed the rights of a child. Under no circumstances is a parent or guardian to approach another child, whilst they are in the care of our school, to discuss or chastise them because of their actions. Such an approach to the child may be seen to be an assault on the child and may have legal consequences. In addition to this, direct parent/parent contact should be avoided when there has been an incident at the school involving their child/children.
- It is appropriate to approach the class teacher in the first instance to seek their intervention in bringing about an equitable and peaceful solution to the situation. If the situation remains unresolved, an approach should be made to the Team Leader and then the school Principal.
- Bullying has no place within our community and as such will not be tolerated. This is as true for adult-to-adult interaction as it is for child-to-child. All interactions between members of our community must be in keeping with the values espoused by the school and school



policies. Instances of bullying must quickly be brought to the attention of the Classroom Teacher, Team Leader or Principal in line with our policy.

- The Daylesford and Yandoit Primary School communities should ensure that everyone within the school community is treated with respect, fairness and dignity regardless of their race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability. Inappropriate use of social media regarding Daylesford and Yandoit Primary Schools will not be tolerated.
- In order to help protect peoples' good name, problems, differences of opinion and personality clashes are not resolved by involving other people in a disagreement or by taking sides in the argument. We will attempt to resolve these issues through calm dialogue between the parties directly involved whilst respecting the dignity of each and every person.
- There is an expectation that people working within the school as "volunteers" avoid forming opinions on other students or sharing their opinions with the broader community.

IMPLEMENTATION

Conflict Resolution

- Respect and dignity will be accorded to all members of the school community, staff and all children at Daylesford and Yandoit Primary Schools.
- Any conflict on school grounds will be dealt with in a mature and appropriate manner in accordance with existing school and DET procedures. Where students are concerned, an approach to the school will be made in the first instance.
- Every effort will be made to listen to the grievances of all parties in a calm and rational manner without recourse to involvement to outside parties who are not directly involved.
- Parents have the right to raise issues and concerns related to the education of their child or school matters. Parents should ensure that they raise their issues and concerns with the right person and follow the correct communication channels. Refer to the School Complaints Policy which is available on the Daylesford and Yandoit Primary Schools Website

COMMUNICATION

In general, parents will use courteous and acceptable written and spoken language in all communications with students, staff and other parents and members of the school community. No profane, insulting, harassing, aggressive or otherwise offensive language may be used.

- Parents will act in the best interests of students, their families and staff members. They will not engage in malicious or judgemental gossip and should ensure that anything they say about others is fair and truthful.
- We value our diverse community and respect the rights, religious beliefs and practices of individuals and their families. We respect points of view that are different from our own and all members of our community must refrain from actions and behaviour that constitutes harassment, discrimination or vilification.



Communication with School Staff

All school staff are entitled to a safe and happy work environment. This is in the best interests of the students as well as staff themselves. Parents should therefore ensure that their interactions with staff do not create unnecessary stress and anxiety.

To ensure this, the following practice is in place at Daylesford and Yandoit Primary Schools:

- The priority for school staff is the welfare and education of all students in the school. School staff are therefore not required to respond to emails and telephone calls instantaneously. Responses are not expected outside normal working hours or during school holidays unless it is an emergency.
- The time available for parents to meet with staff is limited and must not disrupt the classroom. Parents should be mindful of the teacher's time, communicate the reason for the meeting and allow the teacher time to prepare, unless there is a genuine emergency.

Communication with Students

As members of the school community parents can support the students in learning and encourage them to always try their best. This can be modelled by:

- Sharing our knowledge, learning and experiences with the students
- Praising the students and encouraging them for all their efforts
- Encouraging the development of 'enquiring minds'
- Supporting the school values

Communication with other Parents

Parents will respect the privacy of other parents' email addresses and will not send unsolicited emails or "spam" to other parents nor forward other parents' email addresses without their permission. The school will not give out the email address of parents without permission. Class representatives or activity organisers will not pass on parent email addresses without permission.

CONSEQUENCES of a Breach of the Parent Code of Conduct

Any parent, member of school staff or student may notify the Principal or Assistant Principal of a possible breach of the Parent Code of Conduct. The Principal or Assistant Principal will investigate the complaint and if satisfied that a breach has occurred: (a) provide a first and/or final warning that a breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred and that a further breach will not be tolerated; (b) determine whether a breach may be rectified by the parent making a private or public apology, depending on the circumstances, to an individual or group of individuals; (c) where the breach concerned unacceptable behaviour on a visit to the school, issue a trespass warning to the parent, which, if the behaviour continues, may accelerate to a trespass notice requiring the parent to stay away from the school.

Right of Appeal

This policy will apply to any decisions made by the School Council and Principal under this Code of Conduct and decisions may be appealed using the school's procedures for complaints and resolutions.

