Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

# Code of Conduct – Students

For MACS Schools

## 1. Introduction

Your school is part of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS), a network of Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd. MACS schools exist to provide a high-quality Catholic education that supports every student to grow academically, spiritually and as a person.

MACS schools operate with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and are committed to creating learning environments that are safe, respectful and supportive for everyone.

## 2. Purpose

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour expected of you as a student at a MACS school – in the classroom, around the school and parish site, at school events and online. It reflects the school's core values and the kind of community we are all working together to build.

## 3. Scope

This Code applies to all students at MACS schools, including primary, secondary, combined and specialist schools. It covers your behaviour in physical and digital environments:

- at school, and on the way to and from school
- at school events and activities, including sports and excursions
- whenever you are representing the school, whether in uniform or not
- whenever you are identified as a member of the school community
- outside school hours or online, where your behaviour poses a significant risk to another student, staff member or the broader school community.

This Code is based on the belief that everyone at a MACS school:

- has the right to feel safe
- has the right to be treated with respect and value, even in disagreement
- has the right to learn and participate in an environment free from interference, intimidation, harassment, bullying or discrimination
- is expected to be respectful, polite, courteous and considerate of others
- has the right to be supported and challenged as a learner.

## 4. What we expect of you

Every student has a role to play in making our school a safe, welcoming and positive place. As a student at a MACS school, you are expected to:

- uphold the school's values and support its Catholic identity
- treat every member of the school community – students, staff and visitors – with dignity and respect
- behave in a way that does not put your own health, safety or wellbeing, or that of others, at risk
- follow all health and safety rules at school and at any school-related location
- respect the authority of staff and follow their directions and school rules
- follow the school's ICT Acceptable Use Policy and any other relevant agreements

- be kind and considerate – avoid all forms of bullying, harassment, discrimination and racial vilification
- speak up if you see another student being treated unfairly or in a vulnerable situation, report it to a trusted staff member or seek help on their behalf
- avoid behaviour that disrupts class or prevents other students from learning
- respect school property and the belongings of staff, students and visitors
- be punctual and attend all your classes
- stay within the school grounds during the school day unless you have permission from the principal or their nominated staff member
- complete your work to the best of your ability and make the most of the educational opportunities available to you
- wear your uniform neatly and in accordance with the school's uniform policy.

## 5. Behaviour that is not acceptable

The following behaviours are not acceptable at school, at school events or online:

- any form of physical or verbal violence, including fighting, assault, threats, bullying or name-calling
- discrimination of any kind, including on the basis of race, religion, disability or appearance
- cyberbullying, online harassment or digital abuse, including sharing deep fake images or content designed to harm or intimidate others
- sending, sharing or distributing inappropriate, offensive, indecent or sexually explicit messages, images or videos
- language, gestures, images or conduct likely to offend, harass, bully or discriminate against any member of the school community
- theft or misuse of property belonging to another student or the school
- persistent absence from class or unacceptable attendance
- being uncooperative or deliberately disruptive during class or school activities
- any form of inappropriate physical or sexual contact with another student or person that is unwanted or puts their health, safety or wellbeing at risk.

## 6. What happens if you breach this code

As a condition of enrolment, students are required to read and sign this Code of Conduct. Parents and carers are also required to sign it and to ensure they understand what is expected of their child under this Code.

If you breach this Code, the teacher, principal or their nominated staff member will respond in a way that reflects the nature of the breach and your age and circumstances. This may include a range of consequences up to and including suspension or expulsion, or termination of enrolment.

For serious or repeated breaches, the school will follow the *MACS Student Behaviour Support Policy* and the procedures for Suspension, Negotiated Transfer and Expulsion of Students, which also set out the process for appeals.

## 7. Acknowledgement and signature

By signing below, you and your parents or carers confirm that you have read and understood this Code of Conduct and agree to uphold it.

| **Student** | |
|---|---|
| Full name: | |
| Signature: | |
| Date: | |

| **Parent or carer** | |
|---|---|
| Full name: | |
| Signature: | |
| Date: | |

| **Parent or carer** | |
|---|---|
| Full name: | |
| Signature: | |
| Date: | |