



MACQUARIE COLLEGE

PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT

Parental Code of Conduct

This Code has been developed so that parents and those with parental responsibilities are aware of and meet Macquarie College's (MC) expectations with regard to their interaction with MC, its teachers, other parents and students. Adherence to this Code is important to promote positive and productive relationships within the MC community.

Role of the School Generally

MC is responsible for establishing and administering the policies, procedures and rules which govern the day to day operations of MC. It is important that parents recognise and respect this, adhere and have their children adhere to MC's requirements, and support these decisions.

Student Management

MC expects students to comply with its rules and not engage in behaviour which is harmful to others or is contrary to the ethos and philosophy of MC. Parents are expected to support MC in relation to its Student Management Guidelines and not do anything which undermines its authority. It must be understood that in the case of minor disciplinary matters, MC will be the arbiter of what took place and what is a fair punishment. It will not engage in debate about the details of the conduct for the appropriateness of the punishment.

In relation to more serious disciplinary matters which may result in suspension or expulsion, MC will inform parents of the matter and will deal with it in accordance with MC's Student Management Guidelines. While parents will be consulted, the final decision will be MC's.

Interaction with Staff

MC conducts regular meetings between staff and parents at which the student's progress can be discussed. There may be other times when a parent or staff member requests a meeting to discuss particular issues that may arise during the course of a student's schooling.

If a parent wishes to meet with a staff member or the principal or their delegate, they should make an appointment so that a mutually convenient time can be arranged. This can be done through the school office. Parents should never attempt to contact a staff member at their home, unless the staff member requests this. When staff members attend social occasions out of school hours such as sporting events, church, or other activities, they are doing so as a private citizen. Parents should not interact with staff members regarding school matters unless invited to.

It is important that parents show respect for staff and not publicly criticise them or seek to undermine their authority. If a parent has a particular concern about a member of staff, they can raise it with the staff member concerned or with the Principal or their delegate. However, when doing so they should observe the general rules of conduct set out in this Code.

MC has a duty of care to protect all staff and for this reason any aggressive or abusive behavior will not be tolerated.

Complaints

If a parent has a complaint about an issue, this should be directed to the Principal or their delegate or to the teacher responsible for the particular area of activity.

Interactions

Communications, whether verbal or in writing, with other members of the school community, whether teachers, administration staff, other parents or students should:

- show respect, courtesy and consideration;
- not harass or bully another person;
- not use offensive language; and
- not be confrontational.

Social media should not be used to criticise or denigrate Macquarie College, its staff or others in the school community.

Sport

Parents are welcome to attend sporting events, but should exercise restraint when supporting school teams. In particular, they should not abuse, threaten or otherwise seek to intimidate an umpire or referee or be directed against a player, or any MC representatives.

The Sports coaches at MC select teams based on their view of the most appropriate selection at the relevant time. It is not appropriate for parents to complain about the failure of their young person to be picked for a particular team.

Separated Parents

Where some students have parents that are separated or divorced, parents should not attempt to involve MC in any parental dispute that may arise. MC is not able to make judgments on the merits of claims made by one parent against another and should not be asked to do so, nor should it be asked to take any action which would, or is designed to, disadvantage one party. MC will, of course, observe any orders made by a Court in relation to a student or communications with parents.

Failure to Observe this Code

If a parent fails to observe this Code after being warned about a breach, MC may:

- limit access to a teacher or teachers;
- limit access to the school premises or sporting or other school events; or
- terminate the enrolment of the student.

**Based on the Association of Independent Schools NSW Parental Code of Conduct.*

**Information on this document is correct at time of publishing and is subject to change. Please regularly refer to www.macquariecollege.nsw.edu.au for the most up to date information.*