

# **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### Introduction

At Divine Mercy College, our Student Code of Conduct reflects our commitment to fostering a community grounded in faith, respect, and personal integrity. Guided by our Catholic values, vision, and mission, we strive to nurture a learning environment where each student feels safe, respected, and inspired to grow academically, socially, and spiritually. Our faith calls us to treat one another with compassion, kindness, and dignity, while our mission compels us to support students in achieving their highest potential. This Code of Conduct serves as a foundation for respectful interactions, personal responsibility, and positive behavior, empowering students to embody the values of our community and become responsible, engaged members of society.

#### Scope

This policy applies to all DMC students and extends to all areas where students interact within the school community, covering both on-campus and school related off-campus activities. It includes:

- <u>On-school Premises</u>: the Code of Conduct applies at all times when students are on school grounds, including classrooms, libraries, laboratories, recreational areas, and common areas. It covers interactions with all school personnel, fellow students, and visitors, ensuring respectful and safe behaviour in all areas.
- 2) <u>Online conduct</u>: students' online behaviour, particularly when using school-provided technology and online resources. It includes interactions on the school's digital platforms, emails, and any virtual learning environments, emphasizing respectful and responsible use of technology.
- 3) <u>Travel to and From School</u>: The code covers behavior when students are traveling to and from school, including on school buses and in public spaces where they are identifiable as Divine Mercy College students (such as when in uniform). Expectations for respectful and safe behaviour apply in public areas where students represent the school.
- 4) <u>Social Media and Digital Interactions</u>: Any digital behaviour or interaction, even offcampus that has an impact on the school community, including cyberbullying or the inappropriate use of social media is within the code's scope. This applies when the online behaviour affects the well-being or safety of other students or staff or the reputation of the school.

### **Student Rights**

- To feel safe and respected
- > To have access to quality education
- To be heard and valued
- > To have privacy and confidentiality
- > To be treated fairly and equitably
- > To access support when needed

# **Student Responsibilities**

- > To show respect to others, including their cultural backgrounds
- > To participate actively in learning
- > To follow school rules for a positive environment
- > To help maintain a safe space for all
- > To use technology wisely and responsibly
- Respect the property of others, including school facilities and personal belongings
- > To act with honesty and accountability
- > To represent the school in a positive light
- Use inclusive and positive language, avoiding any form of bullying, harassment, or discrimination

### What to expected of Students

- Uphold and actively demonstrate the right of every individual to be free from harassment, bullying, intimidation, discrimination or aggressive behaviour and follow policies that relate to this; ie Bullying Policy & Behaviour Management Policy
- Achieve his or her full academic potential by cooperating with staff in diligent preparation and thorough completion of all tasks;
- Refrain from interfering with or inhibiting the learning of others;
- If you choose or are chosen to be a part of co-curricular commitments, full participation in training, practice, performance, matches, competitions and in support of others is expected;
- Represent Divine Mercy College in a manner that upholds the core values, ethos and reputation of the College; E.g. participate respectfully in religious activities, including Mass, prayer, and retreats; reflect on their actions and seek reconciliation when necessary, in line with Catholic teachings.
- > Show respect for religious symbols, practices, and traditions.
- Maintain a full involvement in the College community through service, House activities, Chapel, assemblies and other school activities;
- Attend school regularly and punctually, in compliance with the Section 23 of the Education Act 1999 (WA).
- Follow the prescribed approval and registration procedures if arriving late or needing to leave the campus during the school day;
- Take pride in their personal appearance and in the wearing of the correct school uniform and sporting attire;

- Demonstrate respect for the local community using courtesy and appropriate language when with other members of the College and when in the broader community;
- Show respect for College buildings, contents and grounds and the possessions of other students, staff and the College;
- Demonstrate appropriate ICT and internet usage and follow the school ICT Policy. In particular students should practice appropriate personal, legal and ethical use of social media and digital communications; and
- Not partake in the use of non-medically prescribed substances (including tobacco, alcohol and other illicit substances) on the campus of the College, whilst wearing any item of school uniform or whilst participating in any College activity off the campus.

## **Behaviours Not Expected of Students**

- > Disrespecting others, including their cultural backgrounds
- Disrupting learning
- Ignoring school rules and policies
- Engaging in unsafe behaviour
- Misusing technology and digital platforms
- > Damaging or disrespecting property
- Being dishonest or cheating
- > Engaging in inappropriate physical or verbal conduct
- Representing the school negatively

#### **Reporting Behaviour**

If you witness or experience any behaviour that makes you or others feel unsafe, disrespected, or uncomfortable, it is important to report it to a teacher, staff member, or school administrator so that appropriate action can be taken to maintain a safe and supportive school environment.

### Breach

As a member of Divine Mercy College, students hold a position of trust and are accountable for their actions. Breaches of this Code of Conduct will be addressed in a manner consistent with the College's values of mercy, justice, and reconciliation. Consequences for breaches will be determined at the discretion of the Principal and/or the relevant Year Group Coordinator, taking into account the severity and circumstances of the incident.

Consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal or written warnings.
- Detention or community service.
- Restorative meetings with affected parties to repair harm and rebuild relationships.
- Suspension or exclusion from school activities, programs, excursions, trips, camps, or tours.
- In serious cases, suspension or exclusion from the College, or termination of enrolment.

In addressing breaches, the College may also refer to other relevant policies, such as the School's Child Protection Policy or the Education Act 1999 (WA).

Students and/or parents/guardians will have the right to appeal the outcome of any disciplinary decision. Additionally, in accordance with applicable legislation and the School's Child Safe Policy, any unlawful breaches of this Code of Conduct will be reported to the relevant authorities, including the Police and/or the Department of Communities.

This approach ensures that accountability is balanced with opportunities for growth, restoration, and learning, in line with the College's Catholic values and commitment to the well-being of all members of the school community.

#### **Review History**

Version	Date released	Next review	Summary of Changes	Author
1	2015	2017	Document Created	Jodi Hampel
2	2023	2025	<ul> <li>Annual Review</li> <li>Added Students' Rights and Responsibilities</li> <li>Minor Wording changes</li> </ul>	≻ Yan Lau
3	2025	2026	<ul> <li>Annual Review</li> <li>Minor wording changes</li> <li>Added spiritual and moral development</li> </ul>	≻ Yan Lau