



Bishop Bavin School Guardian / Parent Conduct Guidelines

An Overview

As a parent, you play a formative role in the development of your child's sense of justice, equity, and the dignity and worth of all members of our school community. You also act as one of the most influential role-models within your child's life. As the onus for promoting and upholding these core values of our school community must fall on all those with the greatest capacity to reason and control their actions, it is the expectation of the community that all parents model acceptable behaviour at all times within the school setting.

Guiding Principles

- **All of our children have the right to feel safe at school.** There may be times when you feel that the actions of another child have infringed the rights of your own. **Under no circumstances** is a parent or guardian to approach another child whilst they are in the care of the school to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards their own child. **Such an approach to the child may be seen to be an assault on the child.**
- **It is appropriate to approach one of the following members of staff:** The class teacher, the Head of Department, the Head of the Junior School (Dr Wilma Elston), the Head of the Prep School (Miss Bridget Tinniswood) or the Head of the College (Dr Gerhardt Hees) to seek their intervention in bringing about an equitable and peaceful solution to the situation. **If a resolution is not reached,** then it is appropriate to involve the **Rector,** Revd Dr Morgan Ellis, with the aim of him assisting with such a result. **Should the matter result from a situation outside of the classroom, then it is appropriate to discuss this with the Rector in the first instance.**

It is easy for opinion to be mistaken for fact. An approach to the relevant personnel within the school to verify the factual basis of a story can assist in allaying your fears as to the events in question and the intent involved.

- **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 through its Vision Statement and School policies, which are published and visible in each Cluster and around our School.** Instances of bullying must quickly be brought to the attention of the School, and / or Staff so that justice may be achieved for all involved in the conflict.



- **Always be positive.** We all have bad days at times, events occur which don't always appear fair. However, it is often the case that the injustice was not intentional, and many times not even apparent to others.
- **Always approach these situations in a spirit of co-operation and genuine partnership.** It's amazing how easily and quickly most situations can be resolved.
- **A child's protection is not the same as an adult's, due to developmental maturity.** They are not lying when their story conflicts with another's, or when the teacher's perspective doesn't match what you have been told at home. Children see their world through their own limited experiences, which colour their perceptions. Adult perceptions are balanced with life experiences. Listen to your child as they tell you their "reality", but remember that a different "reality" may possibly exist elsewhere.
- **Children act differently at home and school.** When faced with an audience of their own peers, often children will act/react in a way, which appears completely out of character to you and the saying, "My child wouldn't do that", might not hold for the current situation.
- **Protect people's good name.** Problems, differences of opinion and personality clashes are not resolved by involving other people in a disagreement, or by taking sides in an argument. Attempt to resolve these issues through calm dialogue between the parties directly involved whilst respecting the dignity of each and every person.
- Refusal to act in a way which is conducive to continuing positive relations and is in contravention of these guidelines, could result in the need for the parents to reconsider the suitability of their child's placement within our school.

Final Observations

Partnership is never one-sided, and it is not possible to be in effective partnership with the school when that partnership is not mutually supportive, both privately and publicly, for all parties.

As the Bishop Bavin School community, we must live our motto "Christ Above All", and trust that there is no situation which cannot be resolved if we participate with a desire to provide for our children, the very best of educational settings in a truly christian environment.

Parent's Signature

