



WAGGA WAGGA  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

## PARENT / CAREGIVER - CODE OF CONDUCT

Wagga Wagga Christian College assists parents/caregivers in the nurture of their children, by providing an excellent academic and practical Christ-centred education to equip their children to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God. Wagga Wagga Christian College welcomes parents/caregivers and visitors to the College and values their contributions. Partnership with parents/caregivers is integral to the College vision and mission. We seek the cooperation of parents and visitors to support the values and standards of the College, and to ensure that everyone who visits the College is able to do so in a safe and harmonious manner, free from unsafe, aggressive or discriminatory behaviours. Behaviour which is acceptable in the College reflects the love and compassion of Jesus, and His treatment of all people with dignity and honour.

In Mark 12:30-31, Jesus says: *One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

These verses point us to the commitment that is at the heart of the Christian's approach to life and the heart of Wagga Wagga Christian College's approach to our community. The scriptures teach that following Jesus means loving God and loving all people. We are to shape our desires and actions in a way that sees the wellbeing of those around us championed in our school. We are committed to following Christ, in love, with actions and in truth. This means we are committed to the safety, protection and wellbeing of everyone in our community.

We ask our parents/caregivers and visitors to the College to demonstrate respect for other people and for the authority of the College; and to set a Christ-like example for students. We recognise that the vast majority of interactions within the Wagga Wagga Christian College community are overwhelmingly positive and productive. The College is very grateful for the on-going support and partnership with the wider College community in the care and development of our young people.

We ask that all members of the community make a commitment to the shared principles and norms of the Wagga Wagga Christian College community.

### **Role of the College Generally**

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

### **Discipline**

The College 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 the College. Parents/caregivers are expected to support the College in relation to its discipline policy and not do anything which undermines its authority. It must be understood that in the case of minor disciplinary matters, the College 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, the College will inform parents of the matter and will deal with it in accordance with the College's disciplinary policy. While parents will be consulted, the final decision will be the College's.

### **Interaction with Staff**

The College conducts regular meetings between staff and parents/caregivers 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/caregiver wishes to meet with a staff member, they should make an appointment so that a mutually convenient time can be arranged. This can be done through the College office.

Parents/caregivers should never attempt to contact a staff member at their home, unless the staff member requests this.

Parents/caregivers also can make an appointment to see the Head of School or Principal about any particular concerns they may have relating to their son or daughter.

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

The College 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/caregiver has a complaint about an issue, this should be directed to the teacher responsible for the particular area of activity, the Head of School or the Principal in that order.

If a parent/caregiver wishes to make a complaint, they should not use rude or abusive language. This is not productive and can make it harder to resolve concerns.

### **Interactions Generally**

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

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

Social media should not be used to criticise or denigrate others in the College community.

### **Sport**

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

At these events, parents and caregivers are expected to:

- encourage their child, and other children, to participate
- uphold the principles of good sportsmanship and fair play
- never yell, abuse or interfere with an official, coach or other person
- respect and celebrate the gifts and talents of children other than their own

The Sports coaches at the College, pick 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 child 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 the College in any parental dispute that may arise. The College 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. The College 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, the College may:

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