

Holy Family College, Parktown

Memo to: Staff, Parents and Guardians

From: Mark Potterton

31 August 2016

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PUPILS (HIGH SCHOOL)

There has been a lot in the news about school codes of conduct. We began a revision process of our policies on 11 May 2016. The spirit of our code of conduct is captured under the heading of 'purpose'. Any code of conduct must be informed by core values.

I share extracts from the revised code of conduct currently being reviewed by the Board.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 As members of a Catholic school founded by the Holy Family Sisters, we are motivated and guided by the values of the Gospel. Members of the College community strive in their work and play to be examples of Christian love; for God, for others, and for themselves. Each member of the College community is responsible for upholding the core values of the College, as outlined in the Vision and Mission. Members of the College have the courage to stand up for what is right and just.
- 1.2 The Code of Conduct aims to create an environment in which it is possible for the individual pupil to achieve the best possible results.
- 1.3 The Code of Conduct further promotes the development of each pupil's relationship skills and emotional resources.
- 1.4 The Code of Conduct takes into account the interests of all at the College: individuality, initiative, personal responsibility and mutual respect are encouraged.
- 1.5 The Code of Conduct applies to all pupils participating in tours and outings, whether on or off the campus, as they are representatives of the College.

We have tried to keep the code of conduct short and to the point. The general conduct regulations exist to make sure that the classroom operations are smooth and peaceful.

2. General Conduct

- 2.1 Pupils must arrive for lessons on time.
- 2.2 Pupils are expected to move in a quiet, restrained manner between lessons, showing consideration for and awareness of others.

- 2.3 The climate of the classroom must be warm and mutually respectful and classroom routines may not be interrupted.
- 2.5 Homework must be completed on time, deadlines must be met and thorough preparation for tests, assessments and examinations is required.
- 2.6 Swearing and other offensive language is not acceptable. This includes sexually, ethnically, racially, culturally or socially insulting others.
- 2.7 Eating and drinking in venues during lessons is not allowed. Eating during lessons is not permitted. Chewing gum is not acceptable at any time while in school uniform.
- 2.8 Pupils are encouraged to take pride in their campus. Littering is unacceptable and the toilets must be kept clean at all times.
- 2.9 All staff and visitors to Holy Family College should be treated with courtesy and respect. Pupils must greet visitors.
- 2.10 No pupil may conduct or participate in any initiation practices of any pupil in the College.

The dress and appearance section is very succinct. We want children to be neat and to wear their uniform with pride. Hair must be clean and hairstyles must be neat and unobtrusive. It is important to remember that this a Catholic school where modesty is important.

4. Dress and Appearance

Proper school uniform must be worn

- 4.1 Pupils should wear their uniform with pride and their appearance must be appropriate to the culture of learning and hard work at the College.
- 4.2 Hair must be clean and hairstyles should be neat and unobtrusive.
- 4.3 Boys must be clean-shaven at all times.
- 4.4 Tattoos, body or facial piercings are not allowed.

Essentially the school is about teaching and learning. Our ultimate purpose here is to educate in an environment where children and young people respect their teachers and each other and are happy. If you have further comments at this time about our code of conduct then please do provide us with input.

Thank you.