Community Code of Conduct for Adults

The Community Code of Conduct for Adults provides parameters for staff, parent, guardian and volunteer interactions with other members of the College community. The following principles underpin this code:

- All College community members should be valued and treated with respect and courtesy. They have a right to expect that the environment of the College, or of any College activity, will be one in which they can feel safe and secure.
- Students have the right to learn, teachers have the right to teach, and educational support staff have the right to work in a safe and equitable environment.
- Parents have the right to communicate their concerns and engage with other College community members in an atmosphere of mutual respect, order and cooperation.
- Students and parents have the right to expect that the Principal and staff will fairly, reasonably and consistently implement the Community Code of Conduct.
- The Community Code of Conduct for Adults will be available for all members of the College Community to access.
- Staff, students and parents have an obligation to support this Code.

Unfortunately, the car park is one place where issues can arise at the start or finish of the school day. It is reasonable to expect drivers to be courteous and thoughtful of others, even under duress. The same is true when adults become emotional regarding matters related to their children, even where background issues cause additional emotion and sensitivity.

During the course of 2014, I had to discuss with some adult members of the College community how their conduct has been in breach of, or in danger of being in breach of, the Code of Conduct.

Some aspects of the Code that are particularly important are:

"Approach all matters in a calm, rational manner and without using offensive or aggressive behaviour or language, which can become a barrier to the successful resolution of the issues at hand and to the development of positive working relationships."

"Appreciate that, from time to time, it is normal for tensions and disagreements to occur both within the College and in the relationship between the College and home. These tensions can be overcome and resolved with mutual respect, goodwill and a commitment to working together."

Where parents or staff feel they have been treated in a manner that does not meet the requirements of the Code of Conduct, I am happy to provide support.

The complete Code was posted to all families last year and can be found on the College website.
Car Parking at the End of the School Day

Now that Prep students are undertaking full days at school, the afternoon pick up will be busier at 3.20pm. As indicated in the previous article, tension and unnecessary danger can develop in the car park when drivers take up car spaces for excessively long periods, park in no-parking areas or bus stops, or drive through areas that they should not enter.

I understand that parents of very young students will wish to leave their cars to meet their children at the Junior School, particularly where there are no older siblings in the family. In this event, they should park in the lower car park that is accessed via the second entrance on Overnewton Road. I also understand that older members of the College community, such as grandparents, also wish to park in the lower car park and leave their cars.

It is important, therefore, that all other drivers wait until school has finished before driving on the Campus. In Junior and Middle School, classes do not finish until 3.20pm and Middle School students in particular, are not likely to arrive at the pick-up area until 3.30pm. Senior School students do not leave class until after 3.30pm and are unlikely to arrive at the pick-up area until 3.40pm.

Hence, for drivers who do not need to leave their cars to meet their children, please note the following:

- If your oldest child is in Junior School, please do not arrive on Campus until 3.25pm.
- If your oldest child is in Middle School, please do not arrive on Campus until 3.30pm.
- If your children are all in Senior School, please do not arrive on Campus until 3.40pm.

Walking School Bus

The Walking School Bus at Overnewton College is the most extensive of any school in the local area. Even if you live a long way from school, you can meet your child at the walking school bus stop off Campus where they will be accompanied by a parent ‘bus conductor’.

Alternatively, please consider meeting your children at an agreed place off Campus if they are old enough.