



# Downlands College

## **PARENT AND COMMUNITY CODE OF CONDUCT** (REVIEWED JUNE 2026)

*Please note, this document works in conjunction with the Downlands College Student Recognition & Restoration Framework and the Downlands College Enrolment Policy and Procedures.*

We welcome parents, guardians and the broader community to Downlands College.

Our College has a strong sense of community, and this is developed through our relationships with one another and through our relationships with our students, parents and the community.

Downlands nurtures a strong MSC spirit, marked by the Gospel values of faith and community. The College motto is “Fortes in Fide, Strong in Faith”. Our MSC faith is based on a belief in, and commitment to a loving God, while Community is that sense of identity which unites students, families, and staff in Christ, as a special part of the family of God. We value:

- Truth, curiosity, and learning
- Mutual respect and courtesy
- Safety and wellbeing for all
- Open and constructive communication
- Inclusivity and fairness

The College encourages and supports the safety of staff and students, including families, by asking for polite and respectful communications and conduct at the College, and College related activities.

The purpose of this Parent and Community Code of Conduct is to promote positive, respectful and constructive relationships between parents/guardians and the College community. This document supports the school’s commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students.

### Parents and Guardians Interacting with College Staff

Downlands Colleges acknowledges the MSC Ethos and establishing a relationship with Parents and Guardians based on courtesy, mutual respect and open communication. The following are expected with these interactions:

- Treating College staff with courtesy, respect and dignity at all times.
- Use of appropriate language and tone (verbal, written, and online)
- Continuing to build relationships with College staff with the focus on positive relationships and outcomes for their child/ren.
- Respect for cultural diversity, disability, gender, and differing perspectives
- Consideration for the privacy of College parents, staff, students and community and have an understanding that the College cannot share confidential information.
- Support of the Downlands College Student Recognition & Restoration Framework.
- Seeking clarification through Policies, procedures and guidelines that affect their child. This may also include information in the Student Diary.

### Communication Guidelines

- Communicate concerns calmly, respectfully, and professionally
- Work together with the College through agreed processes and approved communication channels.
- Allow staff reasonable time to respond
- Avoid confrontational, aggressive, or accusatory communication
- Refrain from discussing issues about other students or families – engage as appropriate with matters affecting their own child/ren only

### Unacceptable Behaviour

The following behaviours are not tolerated from Parents/Guardians:

- Abusive, aggressive, or intimidating behaviour (verbal or physical)
- Harassment, discrimination, or bullying
- Threats, including legal or reputational threats
- Swearing, shouting, or inappropriate gestures
- Defamatory comments, including on social media
- Disruption of classes, meetings, or school events
- Bringing or using nicotine products, alcohol, illicit drugs, or weapons on school grounds in any instance, including co-curricular events and activities (except where explicitly permitted)

### Co-Curricular Activities

- Focus on the student's efforts and performance, rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the student in setting realistic goals related to their own ability.
- Remember, students participate in co-curricular activities for their own enjoyment, not for yours.
- Recognise and value the support of coaches, trainers, tutors and those who are giving up their time to support co-curricular activities. This also means turning up to training, games, rehearsals and practices on time and being collected on time.
- Do not attend College events in an intoxicated state.
- Show care and respect for College property and the property of others.

### Tours and Excursions

- Whilst it is acknowledged that on occasions parents and guardians may be spectators at Tour/Excursion events, parties acknowledge that the College must be permitted to achieve its purpose in each Tour/Excursion, and as such:
  - Tour/Excursion groups are to remain as a group for the duration of the Tour/Excursion.
  - Except in unforeseen and necessary circumstances, no student is permitted to take leave from the Tour/Excursion group, including to visit with family/friends, whilst on Tour/Excursion.

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- Parents and guardians attending any events in conjunction with the Tour/Excursion acknowledge that their behaviour and demeanour must at all times align to the College's Parent and Community Code of Conduct.

### Sport

- Teach students that honest efforts are victorious that the result of each game is accepted without the fear of disappointment.
- Encourage students to 'play by the rules'. This is the Downlander Way.
- Never yell or ridicule a student for making a mistake in any co-curricular activity.
- Students tend to learn from example. Applaud great behaviours and sportsmanship by all involved.
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through appropriate channels rather than question the official's judgement and honesty in public. Some officials are under the age of 18. Without officials, co-curricular activities cannot occur.
- Remove any threatening behaviours and ensure you show good sportsmanship through your actions. No verbal; physical or online abuse is tolerated.
- All coaching/training instructions should be provided by the coach. Whilst it may appear constructive, you may actually be going against the coach's instructions.

### College Sporting and Performing Art Events: Staff

Downlands College recognises that some staff members are also parents and/or family members of Downlander students. Staff are encouraged to enjoy and participate in community events. Any staff members that are considered 'off duty' are able to participate in an 'off duty' capacity as per the Parent and Community Code of Conduct.

Any staff members attending events in an 'on duty' capacity at a College event/activity/camp/excursion/tour must not use alcohol or illegal drugs. This may include, but not limited to, events both on and off College campus where students are performing, participating or present.

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7.0 Meta Data for Document Management

Procedure Title	Parent and Community Code of Conduct
Status	Approved June 2026
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Related Policies and Procedures	<i>Code of Conduct</i> <i>Downlands College Student Recognition &amp; Restoration Framework</i> <i>Downlands College Enrolment Policy</i>