

Berengarra School

Berengarra takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is fully committed to ensuring that its strategies, policies, procedures and practices meet all Child Safety Standards as specified in Ministerial Order No. 1359 (2022).

Code of Conduct – School Community

Berengarra School is committed to the provision of a welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment for all members of the school community. Our school recognises the importance of the partnership between our school, parents and carers to support student engagement and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and responsibility for, an inclusive and safe school environment. We strive to instil our school values of Hope, Belonging, Nurturing and Success

Purpose

This Code of Conduct is intended to guide staff and parents/guardians/carers and all members of the school community in recognising and respecting their own rights and responsibilities as well as those of other members of the school community.

This Code of Conduct is intended to:

- Provide standards of behaviour to guide parents/carers in their interaction with staff, students and other parents
- To make clear the schools expectations as to how parents and carers conduct themselves when on school grounds, at school activities and events
- Outline the consequences of breaching the school community code of conduct

Scope

This code applies to all Berengarra School parents/guardians/carers and all members of the school community. This Code of Conduct is not limited to the school site and school hours. It extends to all activities and events that are school-related.

Rights of all School Community members include the following:

- To be treated with respect and understanding
- To have confidentiality respected and maintained
- To receive a timely response to concerns raised
- To be listened to respectfully and communicated with courteously
- To have their participation in the life of the school recognised and valued
- To enjoy a school community which is free of harassment or discrimination

Responsibilities of all school community members include the following:

- To be aware of, and adhere to, the school's policies and procedures
- To notify the school of any changes or issues at home which may affect a student's learning, behaviour or wellbeing
- To respect the authority of members of staff and to observe school rules as required
- To schedule an appointment when they wish to discuss a concern. Staff are unable to give their full attention during the school day or when supervising students
- To follow appropriate school processes to resolve complaints, grievances, or conflict
- To respect diversity in people and their opinions regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability
- To respect school property and the property of all members of the school community
- To behave lawfully on school grounds and observe the terms of family court or other orders if parents are in dispute. It is not the role of staff to mediate on, or become involved in, legal matters involving students

Unacceptable conduct includes the following:

- Under NO circumstances are parents/guardians/carers or any members of the school community to approach or to reprimand students in relation to perceived actions toward their own child; staff are to deal with all disciplinary issues
- The parent/ guardian/ carer breaches the school's policies or procedures
- The relationship between a parent, guardian or carer and the school has irretrievably broken down in the opinion of the Principal, or any person acting for on behalf of the Principal,
- A parent/guardian/carer is openly unsupportive or critical of the school or staff to their child to the point that the student loses trust in the school and/or staff and no longer responds to the educational program
- A parent/guardian/carer fails to abide by the terms of the enrolment documentation including enrolment agreement, terms of business.
- A parent/guardian/carer fails to pay school fees.
- Subjecting the school or staff member/s of the school to defamation, including on social media and thereby causing injury or damage to the reputation of the school or to a staff member.
- Engaging in conversations at the school which constitute harassment, discrimination or denigration or which involve swearing, innuendo, or offensive language
- Using any form of physical or verbal abuse, or threats of physical abuse, at the school or at any school-related activity or event – or using any form of cyber bullying or cyber abuse at any time
- Post photos of other members of the school community on social media without the expressed consent of the person involved
- Sharing email addresses of parents/guardians/carers, staff or students without their expressed consent

- Being present at the school, or at any school-related activity or event, whilst intoxicated by alcohol or under the influence of illicit drugs or other substances
- Smoking or using illicit drugs or other substances on the school premises or school activity or within the immediate environments of the school

Breaches of this Code of Conduct

Parents/Guardians/Carers or any member of the school community who breach this Code of Conduct may be contacted by the Principal. Appropriate action, which may include the person/s being excluded from coming onto the school grounds or from attending school-based activities or events. In certain circumstances your student’s enrolment could be withdrawn from Berengarra School and another educational setting will need to be found. This action can be taken at the absolute discretion of the Principal, or any person acting on behalf of for the Principal.

In accordance with applicable legislation and with the school’s Child Safe Standards Policies, the Police and/or Department of Human and Health Services will be informed of any unlawful breaches of this Code of Conduct.

In Summary

As a parent/guardian/carer or other member of the school community you are an influential role model and play a formative part in the development of our students’ abilities to interact co-operatively with others and to develop non-judgemental attitudes in respect to those with divergent backgrounds and beliefs. Speaking positively about the school and supporting staff in implementing policies and procedures, including behaviour management practices, will do much to ensure that our students’ experiences at Berengarra School are both happy and rewarding.

Related school policies and procedures include:

Complaints Procedure; Complaints and Grievances Policy; Child Safe Standards Code of Conduct; Child safety and Wellbeing policy; Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety Statement

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