

Student Code of Conduct

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1 Organisational Statement

The Mastery Schools Victoria (the **School** or **MSV**) Student Code of Conduct (**Student Code**) outlines the standards of behaviour expected of all students. At MSV, we want all students to maximise the advantages of, and be proud of, a Master Schools Victoria education. The Student Code is designed to support the School's objective of supporting all students to reach their potential to be academically excellent, resilient, confident, participatory contributors to society.

2 Scope

This policy applies to all students enrolled at Mastery Schools Victoria. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to review and discuss this policy with their child before they commence at the school, and to reinforce the expectations outlined in this document throughout their enrolment.

Students are expected to understand and follow the standards of behaviour set out in this Code at all times while they are engaged in school activities, whether on campus, off-site, or online.

3 Purpose

We want our students to build personal knowledge and skills to support and promote positive relationships, emotions, engagement, purpose and accomplishment whilst embedding a growth mindset and building personal resilience for themselves and other students.

The Student Code of Conduct also recognises that as children grow and mature, they are more able to make appropriate decisions and to be held to a higher level of accountability for their actions.

4 Our overarching goal

At MSV, student behaviour will demonstrate recognition and application of the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions.

5 Acceptable Student Conduct

5.1 Students **must**:

- (a) be respectful and inclusive toward peers, staff and others;
- (b) apply themselves to the best of their ability in all aspects of their education;
- (c) attend all school classes and scheduled activities;
- (d) arrive on time and remain in class until the scheduled end of class time;
- (e) return from breaks on time;
- (f) use class time productively, participate in class work and complete activities to the best of their ability;
- (g) take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered at the School;
- (h) observe the standards of behaviour in this Code when in transit to and from the School, or off campus when wearing School uniform;
- (i) wear school uniform neatly and correctly;
- (j) respect all staff and follow the instructions of teachers and other staff members as required;
- (k) strictly adhere to the School's policies and procedures;
- (l) respect School property, public infrastructure property and the property of others;
- (m) respect the rights, education opportunities and property of fellow students; and
- (n) remain in the specified bounds of the School environs during the School day unless otherwise approved by the Principal;

6 Unacceptable Student Conduct

6.1 Students **must not**:

- (a) act in a way that endangers the health, safety or wellbeing of other students, staff or members of the school community (on campus, off campus, or online);
- (b) conduct themselves in a way that interrupts the work of any class or hinders the learning opportunities of fellow students;
- (c) interfere with or disrupt any person, activity or event;
- (d) engage in conduct or communications that can be damaging to the reputation of fellow students, staff and the School (including activities online such as on social media);
- (e) engage in any form of physical or verbal violence including fighting, assault or threats of violence;
- (f) engage in any form of bullying, including cyber bullying;
- (g) create, send, share or post offensive or explicit messages, photos or videos;
- (h) film, photograph or otherwise record a member of the MSV community, whether student, staff, parent or visitor, without first seeking permission;
- (i) use language or display conduct which is likely to offend, harass, sexually harass, bully or discriminate against, or victimise, any student, teacher, other staff members, or anyone in the school community;
- (j) steal or misuse School property, IT and other resources;
- (k) possess, use or be under the influence of illegal drugs, cigarettes (including e-cigarettes or vaping products), alcohol or other substances harmful to health at School, on School excursions, in transit between School and home or otherwise while wearing School uniform;
- (l) attend School, social, sporting or other functions as a representative of the School whilst under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs or other substances harmful to health;
- (m) possessing weapons or other dangerous articles; or
- (n) engage in any other serious conduct that could lead to criminal charges.

6.2 Peer-to-Peer Sexual Assault and Harmful Sexual Behaviours

Peer-to-peer sexual assault and harmful sexual behaviours are strictly prohibited at Mastery Schools Victoria (MSV) and are treated as serious breaches of this Code.

- (a) Definitions:
 - (i) *Peer-to-peer sexual assault* refers to any unwanted or forced sexual behaviour by one student towards another. This includes both physical contact and non-physical conduct such as exposure, coercion, or the sharing of explicit images.

- (ii) *Harmful sexual behaviours* refer to developmentally inappropriate or aggressive sexual behaviours by a student that cause harm or distress to themselves or others.

These behaviours are considered forms of child abuse under the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic)* and the *Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)*.

(b) Reporting and Response:

- (i) Any student who experiences, witnesses, or becomes aware of such behaviour is encouraged to report it immediately to a teacher, Child Safety Officer, or Principal.
- (ii) All staff have mandatory reporting obligations under Victorian law and are required to act in accordance with the *Child Safety and Wellbeing Reporting Procedure (VIC0052)*.
- (iii) The School will respond promptly to any report, ensuring the immediate safety of all students involved and making reports to relevant authorities where required.

(c) Support for Students:

MSV is committed to supporting the wellbeing of all students involved. The School will:

- (i) Provide appropriate counselling and wellbeing supports for the victim.
- (ii) Offer behaviour and wellbeing support for the alleged perpetrator while ensuring the safety of others.
- (iii) Engage with parents/carers sensitively, maintaining confidentiality and compliance with privacy laws.

7 Acceptable Use of Technology

The expectations set out in this Student Code also apply to the way students use technology and behave online. Students are required to behave ethically and use technology responsibly.

8 Reporting

8.1 Students are expected and encouraged to report any conduct that may be unlawful, is unacceptable or fails to demonstrate the behaviour standards in the Student Code. Students may make a report to a teacher or senior staff member (in confidence).

8.2 Incidences of non-compliance with the Student Code will be dealt with in a way that is consistent with Mastery Schools Victoria policies and procedures.

9 Breaches

Breaches of Student Code:

- 9.1 are unacceptable;
- 9.2 will be dealt with promptly; and
- 9.3 may result in student behaviour management interventions strategies and/or disciplinary action being taken, up to and including termination of enrolment.

10 Communication

The Student Code is made available to all students and parents/guardians including as part of their entry to MSV, during the enrolment period and on the School's website.

11 Review

This policy is reviewed periodically as detailed in the School policy review schedule. Next review date is November 2026.

12 Related Documents

- Parent Code of Conduct
- Enrolment Agreement
- Student Behaviour Management Policy
- Complaints Handling Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Child Safety and Wellbeing Reporting Procedure