



Warringa Park School Code of Conduct Policy

General Statement:

The Code of Conduct identifies a set of principles, which describe the professional conduct, personal conduct and professional competence expected of teachers and support staff by their colleagues and the community. It is based on the values set out in the accompanying Code of Ethics, namely

Integrity
Respect
Responsibility

Rationale:

The Code of Conduct classifies what is already common practice within the education profession.

Its purpose is to:

- state the value that guides our practice and conduct
- promote adherence to the values teachers and support staff see as underpinning their profession
- provide a set of principles which will guide teachers and support staff in their everyday conduct
- enable us as Warringa Park School to affirm our public accountability
- promote the school communities' confidence in Warringa Park School
- has the objective of promoting child safety in the school environment
- sets standards about the ways in which school staff are expected to behave with children

The Code of Conduct is not a disciplinary tool and will not cover every situation.

Broad Guidelines:

As teachers and support staff, we use our expert knowledge to provide experiences that inspire and facilitate student learning. We are a significant force in developing a knowledgeable, creative, productive and democratic society. The values that underpin our profession are integrity, respect and responsibility. We hold a unique position of trust and influence, which we recognise in our relationships with students, parents (caregivers and guardians), colleagues and the community.

We demonstrate our responsibility by:

- providing quality teaching
- maintaining and developing our professional practice
- working cooperatively with colleagues in the best interest of our students.

We demonstrate our integrity by:

- acting in the best interest of students
- maintaining a professional relationship with students, parents, colleagues and the community
- behaving in ways that respect and advance the profession.

We demonstrate our respect by:

- acting with care and compassion
- treating students fairly and impartially
- holding our colleagues in high regard
- acknowledging parents as partners in the education of their children.

Implementation:

SECTION 1: PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Warringa Park Staff professional conduct is characterised by the quality of the relationships they have with their students, their students' parents (guardians and caregivers), families and communities and their colleagues.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENTS

PRINCIPLE 1.1: WPS (Warringa Park Staff) PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS TO LEARN

The main focus of teaching is student learning. Teachers and support staff demonstrate their commitment to student learning by:

- knowing their students well, respecting their individual differences and catering for their individual abilities
- maintaining a safe and challenging learning environment
- accepting professional responsibility for the provision of quality teaching
- having high expectations of every student, recognising and developing each student's abilities, skills and talents
- considering all viewpoints fairly
- communicating well and appropriately with their students.

PRINCIPLE 1.2: WPS TREAT STUDENTS WITH COURTESY AND DIGNITY

Teachers and support staff:

- work to create an environment which promotes mutual respect
- model and engage in respectful and impartial language
- protect students from intimidation, embarrassment, humiliation or harm
- enhance student autonomy and sense of self-worth and encourage students to develop and reflect on their own values
- respect a student's privacy in sensitive matters, such as health or family problems, and only reveal confidential matters when appropriate. That is:
 - if the student has consented to the information being used in a certain way
 - to prevent or lessen a serious threat to life, health, safety or welfare of a person (including the student)
 - as part of an investigation into unlawful activity
 - if the disclosure is required or mandated by law
 - to prevent a crime or enforce the law
- refrain from discussing students' personal problems in situations where the information will not be treated confidentially. Support staff discuss students personal problems only with teachers and school leaders.

PRINCIPLE 1.2: WPS WORK WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

In fulfilling their role, teachers and support staff carry out a wide range of responsibilities. They support students by knowing their strengths and the limits of their professional expertise. They:

- seek to ensure that they have the physical, mental and emotional capacity to carry out their professional responsibilities
- are aware of the role of other professionals and agencies and when students should be referred to them for assistance
- are truthful when making statements about their qualifications and competencies.

PRINCIPLE 1.4: WPS MAINTAIN OBJECTIVITY IN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENTS

In their professional role, teachers and support staff:

- interact with students without displaying bias or preference
- make decisions in students' best interests
- do not draw students into their personal agendas
- do not seek recognition at the expense of professional objectivity and goals.

PRINCIPLE 1.5: WPS ARE ALWAYS IN A PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STUDENTS IN THEIR SCHOOL, WHETHER AT SCHOOL OR NOT

Teachers hold a unique position of influence and trust that should not be violated or compromised. They exercise their responsibilities in ways that recognise that there are limits or boundaries to their relationships with students. The following examples outline some of those limits.

A professional relationship **will** be violated if a teacher:

- has a sexual relationship with a student
- uses sexual innuendo or inappropriate language and/or material with students
- touches a student without a valid reason
- holds conversations of a personal nature or has contact with a student via written or electronic means including email, letters, telephone, text messages or chat lines, without a valid context

A professional relationship **may** be compromised if a teacher:

- attends parties or socialises with students
- invites a student or students back to their home, particularly if no-one else is present.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARENTS (GUARDIANS, CAREGIVERS), FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

PRINCIPLE 1.6: WPS MAINTAIN PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARENTS (GUARDIANS AND CAREGIVERS)

Teachers should be respectful of and courteous to parents. They should:

- consider parents' perspectives when making decisions which have an impact on the education or wellbeing of a student
- communicate and consult with parents in a timely, understandable and sensitive manner
- take appropriate action when responding to parental concerns.

PRINCIPLE 1.7: WPS WORK IN COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENTS' FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Teachers and support staff recognise that their students come from a diverse range of cultural contexts and seek to work collaboratively with students' families and communities within those contexts

RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLEAGUES

PRINCIPLE 1.8: COLLEGIALLY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE WORK OF TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF

Teachers and support staff demonstrate collegiality by:

- treating each other with courtesy and respect
- valuing the input of their colleagues
- using appropriate forums for constructive debate on professional matters
- sharing expertise and knowledge in a variety of collaborative contexts
- respecting different approaches to teaching

providing support for each other, particularly those new to the profession
sharing information relating to the wellbeing of students.

SECTION 2: PERSONAL CONDUCT

PRINCIPLE 2.1: THE PERSONAL CONDUCT OF STAFF AT WPS WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE PROFESSIONAL STANDING OF THAT STAFF MEMEBER AND ON THE PROFESSION AS A WHOLE

Although there is no definitive boundary between the personal and professional conduct of a teacher and support staff, it is expected that they will:

- be positive role models at school and in the community
- respect the rule of law and provide a positive example in the performance of civil obligations
- not exploit their position for personal or financial gain
- ensure that their personal or financial interests do not interfere with the performance of their duties
- act with discretion and maintain confidentiality when discussing workplace issues.

SECTION 3: PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

PRINCIPLE 3.1: WPS STAFF VALUE THEIR PROFESSIONALISM, AND SET AND MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE

Teachers and support staff:

- are knowledgeable in their areas of expertise
- are committed to pursuing their own professional learning
- complete their duties in a responsible, thorough and timely way.

PRINCIPLE 3.2: WPS ARE AWARE OF THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS THAT PERTAIN TO THEIR PROFESSION. IN PARTICULAR, THEY ARE COGNISANT OF THEIR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO:

- discrimination, harassment and vilification
- negligence
- mandatory reporting
- privacy
- occupational health and safety
- teacher registration.

All staff must maintain and develop knowledge and understanding of their practice. They should continuously seek to improve work performance with an emphasis on improving student learning. They should endeavour to take full advantage of learning opportunities provided at Warringa Park School.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....	10/11/15	
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