SILVER TREE
STEINER SCHOOL

Code of Conduct for Students

2024

This policy applies to: Students, parents and staff

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Code of Conduct

Background

Silver Tree Steiner School is committed to being a Child Safe Organisation, taking a preventative and participatory stance on child protection issues and promoting a child safe environment that follows the framework of Creating Child Safe Institutions (July 2016) from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Silver Tree Steiner School explicitly forbids the use of any form of child abuse, corporal punishment or other degrading punishment, as defined in our *Child Protection Policy*.

Our Code of Conduct for Students is supported by the School's Behaviour policies based on the understanding that behaviour is learned, communicates needs, and can be taught and changed. The intentional creation and maintenance of appropriate supportive relationships between students, teachers, and parents is at the heart of our approach. If behaviour is not consistent with this Code of Conduct, consequences will follow based on the Behaviour Management policies. For serious or ongoing problems, parents will be contacted and asked to attend a meeting with the Teacher and/or Head of School/Education Coordinator or delegate.

Purpose

The purpose of this Code of Conduct for Students is to ensure that Silver Tree Steiner School is a safe, supportive and friendly place where learning is prioritised, the property and reputation of the school is protected, and students are encouraged to develop self-discipline and consideration for others. This Code applies to students at School and off site when engaging in school-related activities or representing the School.

Silver Tree Steiner School Code of Conduct for Students is founded on the School's Values of ***Respect, Creativity, Love of Learning and Connection.*** These values underpin our students' rights and responsibilities within the school community to learn, work and play in such a way that they:

- receive, value, and uphold respect within our school in all communications and interactions to foster a sense of compassion and empathy
- experience a love of learning as an integral aspect of their education, honouring each individual's unique and authentic learning journey
- experience creativity imbued in every aspect of teaching and learning to allow imagination, reverence and wonder to live in each individual
- value connection to self, to each other, to the natural environment and to the world around them to engender self-worth, enrich relationships and develop a deep appreciation of their place in this world

This Code of Conduct for Students sets out:

- how students see the School's Values reflected in daily school life
- expectations of students in terms of rights and responsibilities
- the School Rules
- how students can make a complaint in a safe, supported and sensitive way

The Code is written with consultation from Class 6 students and will be reviewed regularly in collaboration with Class 6 students as School leaders and incorporate student voice through student feedback opportunities.

It is expected that Silver Tree Steiner School Staff:

- will implement the Code of Conduct for Students with consistency
- use the Code when collaborating with students to create Class Agreements at the start of each year, appropriate to the children's level of development
- regularly reinforce and clarify School Rules, consequences, rights and responsibilities
- remind students of how they can make a complaint or raise a concern, supporting the process when required

It is expected that Silver Tree Steiner School Parents:

- read through the Code of Conduct with their children and clarify their child's awareness of the School Rules, School Values, consequences, rights and responsibilities
- be familiar with the School's Behaviour policies, which set out the School's approach to addressing student behaviour
- be familiar with the School's Dress Code
- support the School's approach to managing student discipline through proactive strategies and restorative practice

School Values

(With acknowledgement of the contribution of Class 6 students)

Respect in our School includes:

- Respecting our friends by saying everyone is welcome, speaking kindly to each other and allowing them to be who they are
- Respecting adults by being polite to them, listening and using manners like "please" and "thank you"
- Respecting the animals in the environment by not hurting them, not going near yongas (kangaroos) or endangering any animal
- Respecting our land by not littering, not using poisonous chemicals on the garden, preserving trees
- Respecting the Wadjuk Noongar people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which our school is situated
- Respecting our learning by working carefully and always doing our best
- Respecting others by listening when other people are speaking

Creativity in our School includes:

- Classrooms that are beautiful, with artwork created by students displayed around the rooms
- Playing with our own imagination and not bringing toys to school
- Making many things by hand such as models, projects and crafts
- Everyone being involved in singing, music, drama, visual arts and other artistic activities
- Learning through play which makes us more creative

Connection in our School includes:

- Connecting with our buddy classes regularly and sharing activities with other classes in the school
- Being welcoming and friendly to new students and helping them to make friends
- Trusting the teachers at our school who know us very well

- Feeling comfortable to ask the teachers questions
- Being friendly and polite to all of the families in our school

Love of Learning in our School includes:

- Enthusiastic and encouraging teachers who inspire us to be curious learners
- Having many teachers and diverse lessons such as Woodwork and Strings to encourage us to love learning different things
- Doing our best in all of our lessons
- Having different ways to show what we have learnt

Student Expectations

I will work hard to uphold the School Values of Respect, Love of Learning, Connection and Creativity and feel proud to be a student at Silver Tree Steiner School. I understand that I have rights and responsibilities as a student and know that the staff and my family will support and guide me.

Students Rights

I have a right to:

- learn to the best of my ability in a supportive, positive and caring environment
- express myself and be heard by my peers and teachers
- feel safe and be protected from ridicule, harassment and harm
- be treated with care, courtesy, respect and fairness
- receive guidance and help when required

Student Responsibilities

I have a responsibility to:

- show care, courtesy, respect and fairness when I listen, play or work with others
- speak truthfully and kindly at all times
- prioritise learning at school by being prepared, on time and working to my best
- play and participate in a way that is safe and inclusive
- look after property that belongs to me, the School or other people
- abide by the School Rules, my Class Agreement and accept the consequences of my actions

Help With Remembering What Is Expected

Sometimes you may need a little help to remember what is expected of you and teachers are there to support and guide. They will do this by:

- discussing the expectations with you
- reminding you about what you are supposed to be doing
- reminding you of any rules or expectations you are breaking and following through with the consequence that has been agreed on
- giving you a choice of either following the direction or accepting the consequence
- thanking you for making the best choice

If you continue to break the rules and expectations, your parent/s will be asked to come and talk with your teacher about your behaviour so that they too can help you to remember what is expected of you

at School.

School Rules

I will prioritise learning at School by:

- Being on time and prepared for lessons with all required materials
- Following the teacher's instructions the first time, or asking the teacher to explain if I do not understand
- Listening respectfully when a teacher or other students are speaking
- Raising my hand to indicate I wish to speak
- Focusing on my learning and remaining quiet during quiet work time
- Joining in activities in a sensible way
- Not distracting or disturbing others so everyone can learn
- Doing the best I can in all school activities

I will respect my own and other people's right to fairness, peace and happiness by:

- Accepting others for who they are regardless of how they may differ from me (age, race, culture, ability, etc).
- Including others, being friendly and giving everyone chances
- Always speaking kindly and truthfully
- Keeping my hands, feet and objects to myself and never intentionally harming others
- Following rules so we all enjoy fair play
- Taking responsibility for my behaviour
- Being open to restorative conversations to repair relationships with others

I will respect the property that belongs to me and others by:

- Taking responsibility for my own personal possessions
- Storing my bicycle in the racks near the Office
- Not damaging other people's property or taking it without permission (including pencils, rulers, food, hats)
- Treating school property in a manner so it can be used later by others
- Returning property that belongs to others the way that I found it
- Letting a staff member know if something is broken

I will play and behave in a way that is safe to me and others by:

- Staying in the school grounds during school hours
- Playing in the area designated for my class during recess and lunchtime
- Playing in a friendly way, with gentle touch and kind language
- Entering classrooms only when a teacher or staff member is present or has given me permission to do so
- Walking on pathways and verandas
- Using sticks for creative, safe play, e.g. cubby making
- Playing ball games and other games carefully, fairly and taking turns
- Riding my bicycle, skateboard or scooter outside the school grounds
- Being sun smart –wearing a hat outdoors in Terms 1 and 4

- Communicating any rough play, swearing, bullying behaviour or problems to the Duty Teacher and Class Teacher

I am proud to be a student of Silver Tree Steiner School. I will demonstrate this by:

- Welcoming guests or newcomers
- Speaking positively about our School
- Keeping the School beautiful: allowing nature to grow, not graffitiing or damaging property
- Wearing clothing in keeping with the School's Dress Code
- Following this Code of Conduct for Students and my Class Agreement

Student Complaints

What if I have a problem or want to make a complaint?

If you have a problem with something that happened, or is happening, at school, *you have a right to ask for help or complain about it.*

If you don't feel safe or are being hurt, *you have a right to ask for help or complain about it*.

If you're unhappy with the way you, or another person, are being treated, *you have a right to ask for help or complain about it.*

Remember your student rights, be brave and tell us your concerns. They will be taken seriously.

Step 1: Find support

- This could be an older student or your teacher, the Duty Teacher or anyone at school you trust or feel safe to speak to.
- Go to Reception and ask to see Kristy Brookes (Education Coordinator) or Anna Brindal (Head of School)
- A parent, carer or friend can also help you make a complaint

Step 2: Tell your support person or write it down

- Tell them why you're not happy, how the problem has made you feel, what would help to fix it.
- Sometimes it is easier to write things than say them out loud. You can write a letter or draw a picture if you want to.
- You can fill in a Student Complaint and Concerns Form available from Reception if you want to. Someone in Reception can help with this and give your complaint to Kristy Brookes (Education Coordinator) or Anna Brindal (Head of School).

Making your complaint

- Be brave and try your best
- It's okay to ask for help
- It's okay to ask questions
- You will not be in trouble for speaking up
- Remember you are trying to do the right thing to help yourself or someone else, or to fix a problem

Will you keep what I have told you private?

We will keep information about you private. Private means we will keep your details safe. Sometimes we may need to share certain information with other adults who can help sort out the problem.

What will happen next?

We will listen, write down what you tell us, and try to fix it. After we talk to you, we may need to find out more about what happened. We will tell you how long this will take and what will happen next.

We will let you know when we have finished looking into your complaint and explain what we're going to do.

Adults will always listen, answer your questions and treat you with respect.

Review and Dissemination

The development and updating of this Code of Conduct is an ongoing process. Regular changes in legislation and changes in school circumstances and situations necessitate regular review and adjustment. As an important policy in our school the Code of Conduct for Students will be reviewed annually by the Head of School and Class 6, as part of a consultative process with students.

New employees are required to read this Code of Conduct for Students as part of their induction process and a copy is provided for them. It is discussed with the Head of School or Education Coordinator and any questions are answered. A record of induction is maintained, including the date of the induction and is signed off by both the inductor and the inductee.

The school may, at any time, make amendments to this Code to ensure continuous improvement and will advise staff of any amendments.

The Code of Conduct for Students will be made available to the parents, the public and staff members on the school website and in the school newsletter. It will be available to staff in the Policies and Procedures folder on the staff intranet. It will be presented to students by Class Teachers each year in an age-appropriate way.