



Community Code

Culture and Values

At VPS we understand that it takes a community to raise a child. In all areas of our interaction with the School we aim to build and strengthen our community.

We support our children in all their school activities. We embrace the values of **Learning and Growing Together**. We believe that giving your very best is more important than the outcome. Often the process that is experienced is more valuable than the end product. When our children enjoy the journey we impart a love of learning. Always comparing yourself to the capabilities of others is detrimental to this process.

We have an exceptional body of teaching staff with the best interests of our children at heart. They play a vital role in our School community and we support and respect them. Injustices are usually unintentional and it is through resolving these well that we help our children to become independent, capable, confident and resilient individuals.

As parents, we are the most influential role models in our child's life. Our example and leadership, as a member of the School Community, has a major effect on their social and personal development. We play a formative role in the development of our child's sense of justice and equity within their School Community. When problems or issues arise we aim to model exceptional conflict resolution skills for our children.

Conflict Resolution Procedure

It is appropriate in times of conflict that correct procedures be followed to allow all parties to be heard and for harmonious solutions to be reached. If conflict centres around a classroom issue, the first approach should always be made with the classroom teacher. If a resolution is not reached then it is appropriate to involve an Assistant Principal or the School Principal. If you believe that further action is required then you should raise any concerns directly with the P&C committee.

Children's perception is not the same as an adult's due to developmental maturity. Sometimes their story conflicts with another's or the teacher's perspective may not match what you have been told at home. Children see their world through their own limited experiences, which shape their perceptions. Adult perceptions are balanced with life experiences. Listen to your child as they tell you their 'reality', but remember that a different 'reality' may possibly exist elsewhere.



It is easy for opinion to be mistaken for fact. An approach to the relevant personnel within the school to verify the factual basis of a story can assist in allaying your fears as to events in question and the intent involved.

We protect our School Community's good name; and that of all of our fellow Community members. Problems, differences of opinion and personality clashes are not resolved by involving other people in a disagreement or by taking sides in the argument. Attempt to resolve these issues through calm dialogue between the parties directly involved while respecting the dignity of each and every person.

Partnership is never one-way and it is not possible to be in an effective partnership with the School when that partnership is not mutually supportive, both privately and publicly for all parties.

Community Code

As members of the School Community, parents and carers show our respect and concern for others by: -

- Supporting the respectful ethos of our School by setting a good example in their own speech and behaviour towards all members of the School community, children, parents and staff.
- Working together with teachers for the benefit of children. This includes approaching the School with the goal of resolving any issues of concern constructively and politely, and to discuss and clarify specific events in order to bring about a positive solution.
- Correcting your own child's behaviour, especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict or unsafe behaviour.
- Respecting the School environment, including keeping the School tidy by not littering and not bringing animals onto School grounds.
- Encouraging persons to be respectful of others and the School; and observe the required behaviour of the code of conduct whilst on the School grounds.
- Supporting the Vaucluse PS uniform code by ensuring students are always dressed correctly and appropriately.
- Maintaining school rules particularly in regards to classrooms and out of bounds areas.
- When entering or exiting the school ensuring gates are kept closed at all times.



- Respecting that learning commences at 9.20 am and not interrupting classes after this time.
- Respecting teaching and learning spaces by not entering classrooms when teachers are not present.
- Following road safety and parking rules on surrounding streets when delivering and collecting children from School, and at all other times.

A Safe and Respectful Environment

In order to support a respectful and safe school environment, the school and the parent body will not accept or condone parents and carers, or adult visitors to the school undertaking any of the following.

- Bullying via abusive or threatening emails, phone or social network messages, to children, parents or staff; and using class email lists for the sending of messages to abuse, or to undermine, or be critical of, staff, parents or children.
- Using loud and/or offensive language to children, other parents or staff.
- Threatening harm or the use of physical aggression towards another adult or child.
- Issuing physical punishment or verbal abuse of your own, or any, child on School premises;
- Bullying has no place within our community and will not be tolerated. This is as true for adult- to- adult interaction as it is for child-to-child. ***All interactions between members of our community must be in keeping with the values espoused by the School and NSW DET.***
- All our children have the right to feel safe at School. There may be times when you feel the actions of another child have infringed the rights of your own child. ***Under no circumstances is a parent or guardian to approach another child while they are in the care of the School to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards their own child. Such an approach to the child may be seen to be an assault on the child and may have legal consequences.***



- Abusing, damaging or destroying School property;
- Behaviour that disrupts the operation of a classroom, an office area or any other part of the School grounds;
- Smoking on the School grounds; and
- Unruly behaviour due to the influence of alcohol or drugs.

It is appropriate in times of conflict that correct procedures be followed to allow all parties to be heard and for harmonious solutions to be reached. If conflict centres around a classroom issue, the first approach should always be made with the classroom teacher. If a resolution is not reached then it is appropriate to involve an Assistant Principal or the School Principal. If you believe that further action is required then you should raise any concerns with the School Education Director at Bondi Regional Office.

We Acknowledge that partnership is never one-way, and that it is not possible to be in effective partnership with the school when that partnership is not mutually supportive, both privately and publicly.

Should the P & C, or the Principal, determine that this code of conduct has been unreasonably breached by a parent/ carer or visitor in a manner that warrants further action, it is open for the matter to be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Subsequent action by the authorities could result in the parent, carer or visitor being restricted from entering the School grounds in the future.

This document was compiled by a joint team consisting of Vaucluse PS Staff members and Members of the P&C.

Vaucluse Public School Community Code

I / We have read the Vaucluse Public School Community Code and support the guidelines outlined in the document.

Signed _____ Date _____