



Parent Code of Conduct

INTRODUCTION

At Bicton Primary School we believe in promoting a positive school culture, based on positive behaviours and values, that seeks to increase student wellbeing and learning. We understand that student wellbeing is everyone's responsibility and that social and emotional wellbeing underpin effective student learning and positive behaviour. Bicton is an engaging and inclusive school where tolerance and respect are core values of the school's philosophy. Bicton Primary School actively promotes and nurtures a partnership approach to education. It acknowledges the role parents/carers play in their children's learning and the contributions they make to the school.

PURPOSE

This Code of Conduct is intended to provide school community members with protocols and procedures for appropriate conduct and the development of positive relationships within the school community. At Bicton Primary School, we have strong core values which enable students to manage themselves in a socially competent manner.

Our vision is "To nurture, inspire and achieve success". Explicit pro-social values and expectations for behaviour are in accordance with our vision and values, which will be modelled and promoted by staff, students and the parent community.

We expect that Bicton Primary School parents will demonstrate the school values at all times within the school setting.

Our school values are:

Respect - We treat ourselves, our peers, our community and our environment with respect.

Integrity – We are committed to acting openly, honestly and ethically.

Learning – We challenge our students to be creative, positive and independent thinkers who strive to reach their full potential.

Working Together – We work together to achieve and share success.

Resilience – We nurture our students' social and emotional skills so that they can be confident in themselves and their decisions.

Happiness – We create an environment where our students enjoy learning and can have fun.

Responsibility – We take responsibility for our decisions, our actions and their consequences.

POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS

At Bicton we recognise the extraordinary responsibility and privilege it is to educate our students/your children. We believe that the development of successful partnerships with parents/carers and families assists the development of the whole child. Parents/carers are encouraged to actively participate in supporting their child's learning by building a positive relationship with the school. Bicton Primary School encourages positive parent involvement through shared responsibility for your child's learning progress and development. Parent/carer participation is welcomed in school and classroom programs and activities such as the School Board, Parents and Carer's Association (P&C), classroom assistance (through teacher communication) and attendance at school

events. Parent/carer involvement, interest and commitment to your child’s education is crucial to their development.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents/carers are encouraged to understand the school’s behavioural expectations, which aim to provide a consistent approach that support your child’s learning and engagement in and out of school. This is assisted by home to school and school to home communication, so that we work in an effective partnership.

Listed below are expectations pertaining to a positive partnership:

Parents and Carer’s Rights	Parents and Carer’s Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be informed of decisions about their child’s health and welfare • Be informed of their child’s progress • Access a meaningful and adequate education for their child • Be heard in an appropriate forum • Be informed about behaviour management procedures and decisions affecting their child • Report instances of concerns/issues/incidents involving your child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that their child attends school regularly and is punctual • Ensure that their child’s health and welfare is at an optimum level for learning • Ensure their child has the materials needed to make effective use of school • Support the school in the education of their child, school policies and decision making processes. • Inform the school of any health issue or other issues which could impact on the child’s learning or schooling • Build a co-operative and supportive relationship with teachers • Model respectful, courteous and honest behavior • Act in a safe and responsible manner • Listen to, and treat members of the school community with respect • Allow procedures to be followed as stipulated in school policies and maintain a solutions focused approach to solving issues in a calm and cooperative manner

Expected Parent/Carer Actions and Key Things to Consider

Always have a positive/solutions focused mindset.

We all have bad days and, at times, events occur which don't always appear fair. However it is often the case that the injustice was not intentional, and many times not even apparent to others. Always approach these situations in a spirit of co-operation and genuine partnership. It is amazing how easily and quickly most situations can be resolved.

Show awareness that a child's perception is not the same as an adult's due to developmental maturity.

A child is not necessarily lying when their story conflicts with another or when the teacher's perspective does not match what you have been told at home. Children see their world through their own limited experiences, which colour 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. Open, honest discussion with school staff is essential in these situations.

Understand that children may and do act differently at home and school.

When faced with an audience of their own peers often children will act/react in a way, which appears completely out of character to you and the saying "My child wouldn't do that", might not hold for all situations. Be open to all possibilities.

Protect people's good name.

Problems, differences of opinion and personality clashes are not effectively resolved by involving other people in a disagreement or by taking sides in an argument. Attempt to resolve these issues through calm dialogue between the parties directly involved whilst respecting the dignity of each and every person.

PROTOCOL FOR RESOLUTION

All of our students have the right to feel safe and comfortable at school. There may be times when you feel that the action of another child has infringed the rights of your own child. If the conflict centres on 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 the school administration. Should the matter result from a situation outside of classroom matters then it is appropriate to discuss this with a member of the school administration in the first instance.

- All school issues are to be handled by the staff of the school. We attempt to resolve these issues through:
 - Calm discussions between the parties directly involved whilst respecting the dignity of each and every person
 - Being prepared to actively listen to another's point of view
 - Allowing correct procedures be followed to allow all parties to be heard
- Parents should not directly approach other students or make contact with their families. This only serves to compound the issues and make them more difficult to resolve. We believe that most situations can be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties at school.
- Under no circumstances is a parent or guardian to approach another child to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards their own child. Please try to have a positive and open mind. We all have bad days and at times events occur which don't always appear fair. We are dealing with children and they are learning how to behave. It is often the case that the injustice was not intentional, and many times not even apparent to others.
- Approach situations in a spirit of co-operation, understanding and genuine partnership.

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Principals, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. Bicton Primary School considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as **unacceptable** and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the Class Teacher, Deputy Principals or the Principal so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

COMMUNICATION

At Bicton Primary School we value the partnership that exists between parents/guardians and teachers. This partnership aims to foster academic progress, nurture student well-being and promote a positive school environment. It is therefore in the interests of the whole school community that communication between parents/guardians and teachers is open and respectful. These operational guidelines are designed to ensure the most effective and productive communication between teachers and parents/guardians.

Procedures

The school is committed to promoting open and respectful communication between parents/guardians and teachers. The following procedures should be used to guide all communication.

- Two way appropriate, constructive, and timely feedback is valued and encouraged.
- Parents and guardians should allow up to 2 working days (Monday – Friday, 8am-5pm) for a reply to any communication. Parents/guardians should appreciate sometimes a delay in reply may be experienced, due to staff absences or illness.

- Teachers are not available to answer phone calls, reply to emails or come to the office during teaching time or whilst on yard duty. Issues or concerns are best dealt with outside of student contact time when uninterrupted time and attention can be given to them.
- Issues or concerns should not be discussed in front of students or other families.
- All communication is open and respectful.
- Issues of concern are best shared when they first arise.
- **First contact should always be made with the teacher or staff member concerned.** Parents/guardians should contact their child's class teacher or the relevant specialist teacher if the matter involves your child or an issue of class operation.
- Where a general teacher & parent/guardian meeting is cancelled, it is the responsibility of the person cancelling to communicate with other parties and reschedule a mutually convenient time.
- Meetings between parents and staff may be documented. In some circumstances parents/guardians will be asked to sign completed documents.
- Emails to teachers should be brief, alerting teacher to the issue.
- No parent/guardian will approach the children of other families or their parents/guardians with a school related or non-school related issue on the school grounds. Such matters must be addressed to the Principal or Deputy Principal.
- The school will communicate with parents/guardians in a variety of ways including the following:
 - Parent Information Booklet and other enrolment information.
 - Parent Information Sessions
 - Fortnightly newsletter
 - Formal reporting twice a year
 - Parent/guardian meetings
 - Telephone, written, email or Connect

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WA VISITORS AND INTRUDERS ON PUBLIC SCHOOL PREMISES POLICY

The Department of Education places the Principal with the primary responsibility for the day to-day management and control of a school, including all persons on the school premises, and is to provide for the safety and welfare of students and staff on the school premises.

To uphold our school values and support a respectful, safe and inclusive school environment the school will not tolerate in any circumstance:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes with the operation of a classroom, an office area or any other part of the school grounds.
- Using loud and/or offensive language or displaying temper.
- Threatening harm or the use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them (Some actions may constitute an assault with legal consequences).
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Abusive, threatening, malicious or inflammatory emails, phone or social network messages.
- Face to face conversations (with staff and parents) that becomes abusive, threatening or defamatory in anyway.
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs or accessing the school site whilst intoxicated.

<http://det.wa.edu.au/policies/detcms/policy-planning-and-accountability/policies-framework/policies/visitors-and-intruders-on-public-school-premises.en?bbp.9.policyID=22731538&bbp.s=10&bbp.e=select&bbp.10.pane=3&bbp.v=0&bbp.i=d0.b.1.2.1&g11n.enc=UTF-8>

We trust that parents, carers and visitors will fully support this Code of Conduct to ensure a positive environment for all.