



STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Purpose

The purpose of the code of conduct is to provide students and staff with the right to work in a secure and orderly environment and parents with the right to expect that their children will be educated in a purposeful environment in which the principles of care, courtesy and respect for the rights of others are valued.

We all have a responsibility to understand the importance and the role we play, both individually and collectively to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all children at Blue Gum Montessori School.

2. Scope

Our school is committed to ensuring a respectful learning environment that is safe, positive and supportive for all students. This Student Code of Conduct applies to all students regarding the conduct expected of them whilst at school, engaging in school related activities or representing the school. Students are expected to uphold the School's core values at all times.

3. Policy Statement

While attending school during regular hours or during school-sponsored activities, students are expected to follow the principles and expectation described in this Code of Conduct. Students are reminded that their behaviour should showcase BGMS appropriate behaviour at all times.

This Code of Conduct provides guidance on general conduct which is expected and that which is prohibited. It is not an exhaustive list of what constitutes misconduct. Students will be held accountable for their misconduct and any misconduct may be subject to disciplinary action by the school, as stated in the School's Guiding Student Behaviour Policy.

This Code applies to all activities and events that are school-related and when representing or acting on behalf of the School. The code also requires that student actions do not bring the school into disrepute at any time regardless of whether the action occurs within or outside of school activities.

In general, the aim of this Code is to ensure that the school is a safe and pleasant place in which learning takes place, that the property and reputation of the school is protected and that students develop self-discipline and consideration for others.

4. Overarching Principals

- Your first priority at school is to learn. Avoid any distractions and self-regulate if challenged by others on their behaviour that interfere with this priority.
- Be in the right place at the right time with the appropriate materials, ready to work when the class room is open.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself and never intentionally harm another student or the Montessori prepared environment.
- Use polite and respectful language at all times.
- Maintain friendly and courteous behaviour at all time.
- Follow individual teacher instructions, facilitation, class rules, and expectations at all times.
- Do not be a bully, harass or engage in other forms of peer-to-peer abuse. If you see someone being bullied, intervene by telling them to stop or immediately report it to a staff member.
- Do not become a distraction for others. Give every other student the opportunity to maximise their potential. Encourage your fellow students.
- Represent yourself in a manner that you will be proud of in the future.

5. Behaviours not permitted and Minimum Standards of Conduct

5.1 Disrupting and harmful behaviour

Students must not:

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- disrupt or hinder any School activities or other's learning
- do anything which may bring the School into disrepute including by making or publishing false or misleading statements relating to the School, School staff or other students. The jurisdiction of behaviour includes on and off campus.
- physically touch, bully or sexually engage with students or others in a manner which is not appropriate and may endanger the health, safety and wellbeing of that person
- engage in any form of physical or verbal violence including fighting, assault or threats of violence. This may result in expulsion
- engage in any form of cyber bullying or cyber abuse
- send inappropriate, offensive or explicit text messages, photos or videos

5.2 Dishonesty

Students must not engage in any dishonest behaviour including by:

- stealing or taking or using without permission any property of any person or possessing property which is stolen or taken without permission;
- using or providing false or misleading documentation or information for the purpose of obtaining a benefit or advantage for any person
- Plagiarism – you must not present anyone else's work as if it were yours.

5.3 Safety

Students must not:

- be in a classroom, workshop or outside etc., unless accompanied by a teacher
- enter rooms until invited to do so by a teacher. You must line up in an orderly and quiet manner until the teacher arrives and invites you into the classroom.
- run in corridors, through doorways, along verandahs and balconies, the quadrangle or up and down stairways.
- do anything which may endanger the physical or mental health, safety or wellbeing of any person
- possess, store or use on School premises any weapon, explosive materials, fireworks, drugs, dangerous chemicals or biological agents or other dangerous things.

5.4 Breach of rights

Students must not:

- cause physical or emotional harm to any person or bully any person
- engage in violent or threatening behaviour including by using threatening or abusive language
- conduct himself or herself in an offensive manner or use offensive language, on or near, or within view or hearing from School premises or whilst engaged in School activities
- use language or conduct which is likely to offend, harass, bully or unfairly discriminate against any student, teacher, contractor or visitor;
- use inappropriate or profane words or gestures and images;

5.5 Alcohol and drugs

Students must not:

- consume or distribute alcohol or any illegal drugs on School property or during a School organised event;
- smoke or consume alcohol or illicit drugs at School, on School excursions, in transit between School and home or otherwise while wearing School uniform;
- must not 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.

5.6 Property

Students must not:

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- damage, destroy, endanger, vandalise, put at risk, pollute or obstruct any School property or any property of any member of the School staff;
- enter, occupy, use or interfere with any School property or enable any other person to do so, without authorisation from the School;
- steal or misuse School resources or fraudulently use school resources.

5.7 Co-operation

Students must not:

- disobey a reasonable direction given by a School staff member

5.8 General

Students must not:

- incite, persuade, conspire with or assist any other person to engage in misconduct;
- attempt or threaten to do anything which is misconduct;
- be party to any cover-up of misconduct or the destruction, concealment, alteration or withholding of any evidence of misconduct or otherwise conceal the identity or whereabouts of any person who is alleged to have engaged in misconduct;
- publish or display material which could be understood by a reasonable person as indicating that somebody intends to engage in misconduct.

5.9 Attendance

Students:

- shall be punctual and shall attend all of their classes;
- who are going to be absent from school must provide explanations from their parents or their guardians;
- shall not leave the school grounds during the day, except on official school excursions, unless they obtain a leave pass from the co-ordinator and sign the early leavers' book.

6. Consequences for breaches

Blue Gum Montessori School explicitly forbids the use of any form of child abuse, corporal punishment or other degrading punishment. See below for definitions of these terms.

Child abuse:

- 1) Physical abuse occurs when a child is severely and/or persistently hurt or injured by an adult or a child's caregiver.
- 2) Sexual abuse, in relation to a child, includes sexual behaviour in circumstances where:
 - a) the child is the subject of bribery, coercion, a threat, exploitation or violence;
 - b) the child has less power than another person involved in the behaviour; or
 - c) there is a significant disparity in the developmental function or maturity of the child and another person involved in the behaviour.
- 3) Emotional abuse includes:
 - a) psychological abuse; and
 - b) being exposed to an act of family and domestic violence.
- 4) Neglect includes failure by a child's parents to provide, arrange or allow the provision of:
 - a) adequate care for the child; or
 - b) effective medical, therapeutic or remedial treatment for the child.

Corporal punishment:

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Any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light; typically involving hitting the child with the hand or with an implement; can also include, for example, forcing the child to stay in an uncomfortable position. It does not include the use of reasonable physical restraint to protect the child or others from harm.

Degrading punishment:

Any punishment which is incompatible with respect for human dignity, including corporal punishment and non-physical punishment which belittles, humiliates, denigrates, scapegoats, threatens, scares or ridicules the child.

It is expected that privacy is respected and human dignity of other students is maintained at all times.

7. Reporting breaches

Schools need to encourage students to report breaches of the Code of conduct to a staff member. The school may decide to develop a 'whistle blowers' clause to assure students that by reporting breaches of the Code their name will not be made public, unless required by law, and they will not suffer any consequences by making a report.

8. Staff responsibilities

Teachers have a right to

- expect the co-operation of all students;
- expect that they will be able to teach in a safe, orderly and co-operative environment;
- expect the support of all school staff in fulfilling their professional duties;
- maintain flexibility in their approach to classroom procedures and organisation within the framework of school policy.

Teachers have a responsibility to

- treat all students fairly and consistently
- provide an appropriate range of learning strategies to meet all student's needs;
- undertake the counselling of students and a pastoral role when appropriate;
- develop in students an awareness and understanding of school rules;
- follow the agreed policies and procedures of the school regarding student management;
- communicate with parents/guardians/carers on matters relating to the educational development and behaviour of their children.

Parents/guardians have a right to

- expect that their children can interact and learn in a safe, positive, supportive and secure environment,
- be informed of matters regarding their children,
- be involved in developing strategies for student behaviour.

Parents/guardians have a responsibility to

- encourage children to observe school rules,
- work co-operatively with the school to solve problems,
- provide support for teachers in implementing the Code of Conduct,
- communicate relevant information and concerns to the school,
- abide by the school's Parent Code of Conduct.

9. Blue Gum Montessori School Standards

All aspects of this policy and all requirement in accordance with section 159 of the School Education Act 1999 and for Re registration standards for Non-Government Schools are to be applied in policy and practice.

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10. Records Management

Approval and Amendment History	Details	Date
Original Approval Authority and Date	Creation and Review of Policy	28/02/2020
Amendment Authority and Date		
Review	Included Parental Responsibilities and Rights as per AISWA guidelines	21/12/2020
Review	Added the Child Safety Statement	10/3/2021