



STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Student 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 (BGMS).

2. Scope

Our school is committed to ensuring a respectful learning environment that is safe 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 values, at all times.

3. Policy Statement

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

This Student 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 behaviour expectations. Students will be held accountable for their conduct, and they may be subject to action by the School, as outlined in the School's Guiding Student Behaviour policies and procedures.

This Student Code of Conduct 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 Student Code of Conduct 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 Principles

- The priority at school, for students, is to learn and grow, in a safe environment.

Students should strive to:

- Uphold the BGMS Values outlined in the School Strategic Plan: Care & Wellbeing, Love of Learning, Excellence, and Inclusivity,
- Uphold the Montessori principles of honesty, grace and courtesy,
- Uphold the Montessori ideals of care for each other, care for our environment, and care for ourselves,
- Follow individual teacher instructions, class rules, and expectations,
- Be punctual and prepared for learning,



- Avoid activities that distract from learning and development,
- Self-regulate emotions and actions, and take responsibility for actions and relationships,
- Use polite and respectful language at all times,
- Maintain friendly and courteous behaviour at all times,
- Give every other student the opportunity to learn and reach their potential,
- Encourage fellow students and work together (collaborate),
- Never intentionally harm another student or the environment,
- Seek assistance from teachers as needed, especially in challenging situations and if safety is a concern,
- Intervene (if appropriate) and seek help, if witnessing bullying of another student, or other forms of peer-to-peer abuse,
- Not engage in bullying behaviour, or other forms of peer-to-peer abuse,
- Comply with relevant BGMS policies and procedures, including, but not limited to:
 - Emergency, Evacuation and Lockdown
 - Dress Code
 - Social Media
 - Mobile Devices
 - SunSmart
 - Incursions, Excursions and Events
 - Transport and Seatbelts
 - Kiss n Drop and movement around BGMS
 - Allergy Awareness
 - Aquatic Activities
 - Assessment
 - Outside School Hours Care and Hobby Clubs
 - Care for Quenda
 - Care for Snake
 - Extreme and Adverse Weather

5. Behaviours not permitted and Minimum Standards of Conduct

5.1. Disrupting and harmful behaviour

Students must not:

- disrupt or hinder any School activities or the learning of other students,
- do anything which may bring the School into disrepute including making or publishing false or misleading statements related to the School, school staff or other students.
- 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,
- 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:

- Stealing,
- 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 – presenting anyone else's work as their own work,



- Making untruthful statements or misrepresenting others.

5.3. Safety

Students must not:

- be in a classroom, workshop or outside/on school grounds etc., unless accompanied/supervised by a teacher/supervising adult,
- enter rooms until invited to do so by a teacher/supervising adult: students are required to wait in an orderly and quiet manner until invited into the classroom,
- run in corridors, through doorways, along verandahs and balconies, in under-cover areas, car parks, 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, biological agents or other dangerous things,
- order/organise a delivery to the School of food or articles from an external provider.

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 using threatening or abusive language,
- conduct themselves 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, 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 activity,
- 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:

- 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,
- enter staff areas, unless given express permission and supervised by a teacher.

5.7. Co-operation

Students must not:

- disobey any 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 attend their classes,
- who are absent from school require parents or guardians to provide explanations for absence to the School in accordance with BGMS policies and procedures,
- shall not leave the school grounds during the day, except on official supervised school excursions, or if they are signed out from the school administration into the care of a parent/guardian.

6. Student Safety and Dignity

Student safety is always the priority.

Privacy is respected, and the human dignity of all students is maintained at all times.

BGMS forbids any form of child abuse, corporal punishment or any 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:

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



7. Student Code of Conduct – Students Not Meeting Expectations

It is important to acknowledge that schools are places of continual learning. As students grow, develop and transition, they are challenged by new experiences and can be required to adjust to changes in social and educational environments. Within this context, there is a need for empathy and understanding, and an acknowledgement that learning is taking place across the entire School Community.

From time to time, students may have difficulty in upholding elements of the Student Code of Conduct, or they may make an error of judgement. In these cases, BGMS engages with the relevant policies and procedures to assist students in maintaining the behaviour expectations outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

This includes:

- Working together with students and families,
- Maintaining appropriate communication with students and families,
- Guiding students on behaviour expectations,
- Understanding specific student needs,
- Developing student understanding via discussions and mediation,
- BGMS Guiding Student Behaviour documents,
- BGMS support documents, including the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA) Bullying Prevention V4.

8. Reporting Breaches

Schools need to encourage students to report breaches of the Student Code of Conduct to a staff member. Students reporting concerns are treated with dignity and guided in the process by school staff. In cases of child abuse reporting, the School abides by the lawful protections provided to children regarding the reporting of child abuse.

9. Staff Responsibilities

Teachers have a right to:

- expect the co-operation of all students within reasonable grounds,
- 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 policies and procedures.

Teachers have a responsibility to:

- treat all students fairly, consistently, with care and understanding,
- provide an appropriate range of learning strategies to meet all students' needs,
- undertake the counselling of students and a pastoral role when appropriate,
- develop in students an awareness and understanding of school rules and behaviour expectations,
- follow the policies and procedures of the School regarding students,
- communicate appropriately with parents/guardians/carers on matters relating to the Student Code of Conduct and the educational development of their children.

Parents/Guardians have a right to:

- expect that their children can interact and learn in a safe, supportive, and secure environment,
- be informed of matters regarding the welfare and education of their children,
- be involved in discussing strategies for children having difficulty meeting the expectations of the Student Code of Conduct.



Parents/Guardians have a responsibility to:

- encourage children to maintain expectations outlined in the Student Code of Conduct,
- work co-operatively with the School,
- provide support for school staff in implementing the Student Code of Conduct,
- communicate relevant information and concerns to the School, via the classroom teacher and/or relevant school staff,
- represent themselves in communications, and not represent others,
- abide by the BGMS Community Code of Conduct; including not approaching other people's children, to resolve matters related to the Student Code of Conduct.

10. Blue Gum Montessori School Standards

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

11. 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	10/03/2021
Review and Reformat		15/04/2025
Review and update	Principal.	05/08/2025