



ABBOTSLIGH

Abbotsleigh Parent Code of Conduct

Rationale

Parents are the first role models for children. The choices parents make, and the behaviours we exhibit, have a significant influence on our children. The School has a clear expectation of student conduct. Accordingly, it is appropriate to document expectations around Abbotsleigh parent conduct at school and off site (for sport or other school-related events).

This Code of Conduct relates to parents, grandparents, carers and other visitors to the school (including volunteer roles) and attending off site school events.

Values

When a community shares common values, we are guided towards our common goal with collaboration and a sense of belonging.

Abbotsleigh released a new Strategic Plan in 2017 with five key values (chosen by the girls themselves):

Integrity.	We do what's right, not what's easy.
Respect.	We value everyone for who they are.
Courage.	We dare to take risks.
Compassion.	We lift each other up.
Perseverance.	We get up, we don't give up.

The Abbotsleigh Parents' Association supports these values and invites the parent community to consider them in all interactions with teachers, other parents and students, both on and off the school grounds.

Positive Role Modelling

As parents, it is our responsibility to role model good citizenship and ethical conduct. For our community to be coherent, our effort is required to maintain goodwill.

This includes:

- Being Inclusive
- Being open minded and adaptable
- Accepting cultural and religious diversity
- Interacting respectfully with staff, students and other parents
- Assume positive intent from all
- Appropriate and respectful conduct at functions (including sport and other school-related events)
- Appropriate and respectful conduct whilst driving

Car Park Etiquette

These guidelines are to ensure absolute safety of our daughters, in an area where they are at greatest risk – where there are moving vehicles and pedestrians in the one space.

These guidelines are relevant for all Junior School and Senior School carparks.

- Adhere to the speed limit. **Please note the speed limit is 5 km/h in the Junior School lower carpark.** This is walking speed to ensure the little pedestrians (particularly our ELC children) are safe as they walk through the carpark. **The speed limit in the Senior School carpark is 10 km/h.** At busy times the car park gets full. Please remain mindful and patient.

- No overtaking
- Please, no tooting (unless indicating danger)
- Please do not park in any reserved space (including the ELC reserved spaces) unless you have specific permission to do so
- Please do not queue in the roundabout near the Junior School

ALWAYS choose SAFETY over CONVENIENCE.

Use of Social Media

Expectations around the use of social media for parents aligns with the School's clearly stated expectations for the use of social media for students. (Please see the School's policy regarding Use of Social Media on Page 19 of the Parent Handbook.)

In sum, it is expected that social media will be used for the purposes of building community and contributing to a positive dynamic amongst parents.

It is important to note that not all parents choose to use social media and therefore it should not be relied upon as the main form of communication relating to events. The School will always communicate with parents in relation to school activities and social events.

Limitations clearly exist around the use of social media. In particular, there are potentially serious ethical issues and legal liabilities that may arise from its misuse.

Specifically, parents can ensure lawful use of social media by noting the following:

- Parents should not take or post photographs of other students without the express consent of the other child/children's parents
- Parents should not post photographs of students in school uniform if it has the potential to bring negative comments towards the student(s), staff or School
- Parents should not set up any group with the word "Abbotsleigh" in its title. It may mislead any reader to believe the School moderates the page.
- Email addresses of parents should not be given to other people without their express consent.

What happens when conflict arises?

There will be occasions when conflict may arise between students. It is vital that parents encourage their daughter to seek appropriate solutions herself, which may involve discussion with her teacher or tutor. If attempts at discussion do not find satisfactory resolution, it is expected that parents will discuss their concerns with a teacher.

Please do not directly approach another parent or student with grievances.

Communicating with Respect

Inclusivity and assuming good intent form the foundation of respectful conversations.

Our interactions with other parents, teachers and students should reflect this.

Should there be an occasion where this has not occurred, please have a discussion with your daughter's teacher. If you have strong concerns, please contact the Head of the Junior School, the Deputy Headmistress or the Headmistress.

For more information about behavioral expectations, please read Page 15-19 of the Parent Handbook.

Working With Children Check (WWCC) for Volunteers

It is Abbotsleigh school policy that any parent or volunteer that is on site must have completed a Working With Children Check (WWCC). Please see Page 24 of the Abbotsleigh Parent Handbook for details on how to apply for a WWCC.

Confidentiality

When parents volunteer in certain roles in the classroom, they may come across confidential (either learning or otherwise) information regarding a student. It is important that this information remains confidential and is not discussed with other parents (and is reported to the teacher if it is not already known).

School Sport: Parent Code of Conduct

For parents' convenience, the IPSHA and IGSSA Spectators' Codes of Conduct have been re-printed here.

IPSHA SPECTATORS' CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- Children play organised sports for fun. They are not playing for the entertainment of spectators only, nor are they miniature professionals.
- Applaud good performances and efforts from each team. Congratulate all participants upon their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
- Respect the officials' decision.
- Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a competition.
- Positive comments are motivational and encourage continued effort.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, harassing players, coaches or officials.
- Comments should not interfere with the running of the game.
- Focus on the efforts and performance of the children rather than the result.

Complaints

Complaints concerning the conduct of games should not be made during or after the game but should be referred to one's Head of School and any action should be left to his/her discretion.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should parents' approach or make contact with the opposition's coaches, parents, students or school directly.

All grounds must be kept clean - litter must be placed in the bins provided.

IGSSA Code of Conduct for Parents and Spectators:

1. Encourage girls to give their best effort and applaud good play regardless of which team produces it.
2. Behave respectfully and courteously towards players, coaches, match officials and other spectators.
3. Never discourage or disparage any player.
4. Never criticize a match official. If any participant wishes to bring a complaint or express a concern about any aspect of a game, they may do so by contacting the AHISGS Sports Office by 5pm on the following Monday.

NOTE: This document has been developed through a consultative process involving the Abbotsleigh Parents' Association and the senior Leadership Team at Abbotsleigh, including the Headmistress, Deputy Headmistress, Head of Junior School, Deputy Head of Junior School and the Director of Wellbeing.