

# Student Code of Conduct

## 1. Introduction

Djerriwarrh Community College (the College) is an independent specialist senior secondary school based in Melton. We deliver the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) and VCE Vocational Major (VM) for students aged 15-19 years. We provide a safe and inclusive learning environment for young people who may have been disengaged or are at risk of disengaging from education. The College recognises the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture to the wellbeing and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The College is committed to supporting students to reach their individual personal, social and educational potential.

The Student Code of Conduct reflects Djerriwarrh Community College's (the College) belief that:

- All individuals have access to education despite personal circumstances.
- All individuals are to be valued and treated with respect.
- Students, staff and visitors have the right to a culturally safe school, focusing on unlearning systemic racism, recognising harmful effects, standing up to racism and amplifying the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
- All individuals have the right to work in a secure and safe environment where they have the opportunity to fully achieve their potential.
- Students have a right to learn in a co-operative environment free from disruption.
- Students have access to appropriate supports and interventions as required.
- Parents/Guardians have a right to expect that their children will be educated in an environment of care, courtesy and respect for the rights of others.
- Parents and Guardians have a responsibility to support the College in its efforts to maintain a positive learning environment.
- College staff have an obligation to reasonably, consistently and fairly implement the consequence of breaching the Code of Conduct.

## 2. Definitions

<b>College</b>	Djerriwarrh Community College, 235 Station Road, Melton, 3337
<b>Parent/Guardian</b>	Includes parents, guardians, step-parents and/or carers as listed in the Enrolment Application Form.
<b>Staff</b>	Includes all employed staff, contractors and volunteers of the College
<b>Community members</b>	Refers to other students, parents, guardians, carers and family members of College students and visitors to the College

### 3. Expectations of staff, students and community members

At the College, we expect students to display honesty, respect, inclusiveness, accountability, self-discipline and the ability to work cooperatively with others.

All members of the College community are encouraged to accept responsibility for their own actions, consider their behaviour towards others, and respect authority. This Code of Conduct is intended to provide a set of general principles and guidelines to guide students in their interaction with staff, other students, parents and the wider College community. It applies to all students currently enrolled at the College.

#### College Values

All College Staff, Students and Community Members are expected to uphold the College Values:

- **Caring:** We provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students.
- **Respectful:** We treat all members of our school community fairly and equally.
- **Inclusive:** We put the needs of our students first and welcome diversity in our school community.
- **Adaptable:** We respond to students needs in creative and flexible ways.
- **Accountable:** We take responsibility for our decisions and follow through on our commitments.

### 4. Acceptable conduct of Students

Students are expected to:

- accept the authority of each staff member and accept that each staff member has the right to implement the College's policies and to impose appropriate consequences when the student's behaviour is unacceptable
- accept and respect the equal rights of every other student and members of the entire College community
- accept the right of every other student to attend the College in safety and security, free from bullying and harassment
- work in partnership with the College to support positive student learning outcomes and academic achievement
- support the various policies, procedures and programs of the College
- seek to understand and accept the responsibility for their actions and hence learn to develop self-discipline, accepting that they are personally responsible for their actions
- attend all their classes as scheduled

- be prepared for, and participate in, all classes and activities of the College in which they are involved, including listening respectfully in the classroom and any kind of College assembly, activity, presentation, class event or public meeting
- care for their own property, the property of others and the College, and the natural environment
- follow all policies, procedures and expectations of the College as directed including but not limited to the safety policies and procedures, the Privacy Policy and the Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures;
- accept that they have a right to express their feelings or opinions and that all other students also have an equal right to express their feelings or opinions, but that this expression must not involve the deliberate loss of dignity of any other individual
- speak to other students, staff and community members with courtesy and respect
- respect the privacy of all students, staff and community members
- follow their personalised learning plan, safety plan and/or support plan as required
- not interfere in another student's process/support plan
- promote an inclusive learning environment

## **5. Unacceptable conduct of Students**

Students must not:

- use violence of any kind at any time
- engage in any form of racism or discrimination. This includes making racist comments, jokes, gestures, or sharing racist content. Every member of our community has the right to feel safe, valued, and respected, regardless of their cultural background or identity.
- intimidate, undermine, threaten, bully or harass other students, staff or community members
- smoke or vape at College or while involved in College activities off the campus
- have unsafe, dangerous or inappropriate equipment, materials or tools in their possession that could be used as weapons either at College or while involved in College activities off the campus. Students are not to have laser pointers in their possession at any time
- post a photo or video recording of another student, staff member or community member on social media without consent or disclose the personal details of a student to another person without consent
- consume or have in their possession alcoholic beverages, use or have in their possession illicit drugs and related substances or engage in any activity which is in breach of applicable laws or regulations including laws relating to unlawful discrimination while at College or engaged in College activities.

A breach of this rule will be treated as a most serious offence, and offending Students may face expulsion from the College.

Restorative measures will also be implemented taking into account individual circumstances.

### **5.1 Acceptable use of technology**

Students recognise the potential for damage to be caused, directly or indirectly, to the College and others as a result of their personal use of social media especially in circumstances when they can be identified as a Student of the College.

Student behaviour when engaging in any activity with computers, mobile devices or their networks must be consistent with the values and expectations of the College. The privacy of students, staff and community members must be recognised and respected at all times.

The electronic sharing of inappropriate or explicit material either personal, or involving another person (people), is expressly forbidden and is a breach of the law.

Students must abide by the Acceptable Use of Technology Policy.

When using social media, Students must:

- respect a person's personal environment and not harass other people online
- act with integrity
- make reasonable efforts to ensure that they comply with the College's Social Media Policy
- be respectful to all students, staff and community members
- not create accounts that hold themselves out to be affiliated with the College or authorised to speak or act on the College's behalf
- not use any platform to bully, intimidate or harass any other person
- never reveal confidential information relating to the College, or any other student or community member
- not post on social media defamatory, offensive, inappropriate or other material that may damage the reputation of the College.

## **6. Complaints**

Students are encouraged to discuss any issues and concerns with College staff.

When making a complaint to the College, Students are required to behave in a respectful manner consistent with the Student Code of Conduct.

Students should ensure that they raise their issues and concerns with the right person and follow the correct communication channels according to the College's Complaints Policy and Procedure.

Students must not use social media to voice grievances about the College.

## **7. Consequences of a breach**

Students should understand that there are consequences which flow from all behaviours. A breach of this Student Code of Conduct may require the College to implement its Behaviour Management Policy. When considering a breach of the Code of Conduct, the College aims at all times to be fair and consistent whilst appreciating that every situation also needs to be judged on its own merits.

A breach, or suspected breach, will be investigated in a manner consistent with the College's Behaviour Management Policy and/or Complaints Policy and Procedures.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct will result in appropriate consequences being applied. These consequences might include:

- behaviour management plan
- individual support plan
- community service
- discussion with parents/guardians
- restorative relationship meeting
- mediation
- discussion of internal counselling
- exclusion from class, incursions and excursions
- referral to external counselling services, police or other appropriate agencies
- amendments to support plans where required
- warning letters
- suspensions
- withdrawal/expulsion from the program

The College reserves the right to vary behaviour management procedures for a breach or suspected breach by weighing the interests of individual students against those of the wider College community.

If a respondent or their parents are unhappy in the application of this Code, they should raise the issue in accordance with the procedure set out in the College's Complaints Policy.

Any student, staff member or community member may notify a staff member of a possible breach of the Student Code of Conduct.

The College may be required to immediately or subsequently suspend or expel a student if it is determined that the seriousness of the behaviour warrants such a response.

The College or its representatives may inform or otherwise cooperate with the Police, Department of Human and Health Services and/or any relevant governmental or semi-governmental authority in cases of breaches of the Student Code of Conduct involving a breach of the law. Breaches may be required to be reported by law or may be reported when otherwise deemed to be reasonably appropriate by the College.

## 8. Related Documents

<b>Related policies</b>	Information Communication Technology User Policy Student Behaviour Management Policy Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy Complaints Policy Enrolment Policy Privacy Policy
<b>Other related documents</b>	Child Safety Code of Conduct Enrolment Terms and Conditions Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

## 9. Issuance and approval

<b>Document No:</b>	036	<b>Version no:</b>	2.1	<b>Classification:</b>	Enrolment
<b>Document owner:</b>	Compliance	<b>Authorised by:</b>			Principal
<b>Issue date:</b>	16 May 2025	<b>Review date:</b>			16 May 2028