

Parent and caregiver rights

A **right** is something that belongs to you and cannot be taken away by anyone. Staff, students, parents and caregivers all have similar rights.

Everyone has the right to be treated with respect and fairness at school.

When we discuss matters with parents or caregivers that relate to the school, children or their families, we will always try to:

- respond to all parents and caregivers with sensitivity
- follow processes that support the intent of the Human Rights Act and the Privacy Act.

Parents and caregivers are expected to pay the same courtesy to staff.

All have a right to be heard.

We encourage all parents and caregivers to talk freely about their ideas and feelings during scheduled parent-teacher meetings, and through our school consultation processes.

- Appointments should be made at appropriate times.
- Parents may not interrupt class teaching time.
- Parents should respect that teachers need to prepare for these meetings.
- It is preferable that any matters are discussed in private.

No teacher will conduct a discussion with parents or caregivers who are abusive or threatening in their behaviour. In such cases, parents will be asked to leave and support may be called.

Everyone has a right to tell their side of the story.

We encourage parents to discuss any concerns, problem behaviour or consequences with the staff member concerned in the first instance. Senior staff or other support agencies may need to be involved in the conversation.

Every child has individual rights, but these do not outweigh the rights of all children to a positive learning environment.

Parents and caregivers have a right to expect school to be a safe place.

We will provide safe classrooms, equipment and rules to ensure pupil safety at school.

Parent and caregiver responsibilities

You have a responsibility to make sure your child attends school regularly.

- If your child is unable to attend for any reason, you must give an explanation to the teacher.
- You must phone the school on the first day of absence.
- You must observe school hours and may not collect your child during the day without notification.

You have a responsibility to keep sick children home from school until they are well.

To minimise the risk of passing on infections, children who are not well need to be kept home.

Parents of children who become ill at school must be prepared to take them home when notified. You need to give an emergency contact number to the office for this purpose.

You have a responsibility to ensure your children arrive at school well nourished, rested, clean and suitably clothed.

Children need to be guided towards taking self responsibility as they progress through school. Ultimately it is the parent's responsibility to ensure these needs are met.

You have the responsibility to support the school in upholding our codes of student conduct, school rules and the respect of property.

This means observing all playground and classroom rules and agreed safety practices. Parents are the best role models for their child. If parents provide contrary advice to the school, it causes confusion for children.

You have the responsibility to help make the school a good place to be.

This means:

- contributing where you can to the collective life of the school
- supporting your child's classroom activities
- reading and responding to all messages that are sent home from school
- being respectful, thoughtful and courteous in your dealings with others.

You have the responsibility to make sure your child is supported to complete their homework tasks.

All children bring home tasks that support their learning. They need to have time and space to complete these and an opportunity to share them with parents. Tasks have notified time limits and need to be returned promptly. Homework should not be an onerous task for either parent or child.

You have the responsibility to ensure your child has the right equipment at school on any day.

This means that the teacher and child can work through the planned programme and have the best chance of success.