

## PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICY

Our Mercedes Community is founded on Jesus' challenge to:

*'Love one another as I have loved you.'*

*(John 15:12)*

To foster a caring and responsible school community, we believe:

- in reinforcing positive and responsible behaviour
- in maintaining a safe and caring environment where the rights of all students are supported and protected
- students must accept responsibility for their own behaviour in academic, social and physical pursuits
- in order to protect the rights of others and to support students to make responsible decisions, the school has an obligation to respond to inappropriate behaviours
- staff and students share the role of establishing a responsible and caring school environment.

As a Catholic community, Mercedes College values caring and responsible behaviour and expects all students to be committed to the following three areas:

### **A. Respect**

Mercedes College promotes respect of self, others and the environment.

Appropriate behaviour includes:

- being friendly
- showing pride in yourself and the environment
- being honest
- being self-disciplined
- being tolerant and showing respect, consideration and courtesy
- supporting and helping each other
- resolving conflict in a constructive and non-aggressive manner
- welcoming visitors
- caring for resources and the environment
- maintaining lockers and personal school items in an appropriate manner
- using appropriate language
- wearing correct school uniform
- being punctual.

### **B. Community**

Mercedes College promotes active participation in our school community.

Appropriate behaviour includes:

- working together and supporting each other
- appreciating the skills and diversity of individuals within our school
- adopting a responsible and constructive role within the school community
- using all opportunities for participation in school life

- accepting responsibilities
- engaging in appropriate behaviour when representing the school
- acknowledging that we are an R-12 co-educational school and modelling suitable behaviour in our interactions with other students.

### **C. Achievement**

Mercedes College promotes the pursuit and value of excellence.

Appropriate behaviour includes:

- striving to achieve your best in all school activities
- acknowledging and supporting the talents and experiences of others
- setting your own goals and expectations in cooperation with your teachers
- taking steps to develop self confidence
- accepting challenges
- questioning challenges
- questioning and seeking answers
- recognising and learning from mistakes
- developing sound study skills
- completing homework
- effectively using your school diary
- meeting deadlines
- being prepared for lessons
- maintaining a balance between study, co-curricular involvement and recreation.

### **Personal Responsibility Procedures**

**College Rules are based around:**

- Uniform and grooming
- Punctuality and attendance
- Out of bounds areas
- Acceptable use of technology
- Harassment
- Appropriate behaviour.