Code of Behaviour for Parents at St Jerome's Primary School

St Jerome's Primary School accepts the challenge to be a place where the environment and curriculum are illuminated by faith and touched by the Gospel spirit of love and freedom. In this light, our school community seeks to develop the potential of its members, whilst respecting their dignity and uniqueness.

The following is a guide to how parents can support us in our endeavours to fulfil this vision of education at our school and bring out the best in their children while they are at St Jerome's Primary School.

This Code of Behaviour for Parents has at its core, 12 Conduct Statements.
The statements are:

1. You act in accordance with the values of the Gospel as defined in the Code of Ethical Conduct.
   We know a child learns behaviours and values from the example their parents/caregivers, teachers and peers display. Whilst displaying inappropriate behaviour is often the result of many factors, parents can reduce incidents by being good role models and helping to create a positive environment in which their son/daughter can be valued.

2. You give priority to students' safety and well-being in all your behaviour and decision making.
   As an adult, you should leave the stress and tension of daily life behind when dealing with your son/daughter. Concentrate on the bigger picture and which of YOUR characteristics you most want your child to emulate. If you want your son/daughter to copy your calmness and non-judgemental attitudes, then this is what you need to show them.
   Outright bad behaviour, such as losing your temper or swearing is totally unacceptable. It will embarrass your son/daughter and sets a poor example.

3. You act safely and competently.
   Taking responsibility for your own actions and encouraging your children to do the same.

4. You respect the dignity, culture, values and beliefs of each member of the school community.
   Showing acceptance and understanding towards others.
   Welcoming new families into the school by introducing ourselves, smiling and being friendly.

5. You conduct yourself in accordance with laws, agreements, policies and standards relevant to your relationship with the school community.

Familiarising yourselves and your children with, and respecting, the school and community rules.
Being courteous in the carpark and following rules when delivering and collecting children from school.
You do not publish a photo of any child, other than your own, on Social Media without the express permission of the child's parent.

6. You promote and preserve the trust and privilege inherent in your relationship with all members of the school community.
   Encouraging your son/daughter to use problem solving channels at school such as other teachers, school psychologist, the parish priest when seeking help.
   When children see their parents treating others with disrespect when angry, then they learn from example that the way to deal with their anger is to do the same.
   When they see their parents treat others unfairly, they learn that unfairness is OK as long as you are the one being unfair, not when you are the recipient. Respect, fairness and integrity are encouraged through good role models.
   Your child will learn to respect other people by seeing you do the same.
   They will accept the staff's decisions when they see you value the staff and accept their decisions.

7. You treat personal information about members of the school community as private and confidential.
   Avoiding inappropriate carpark discussions which are negative in nature or about a third party.
   Assist in classrooms when possible without divulging any observations or information about any children not even to their own parents.
   Be aware of photos that you place on social media to ensure that only your son/daughter can be identified.
   If there is another child in your posted photo you MUST ensure that you have the parents' permission.

8. You act reflectively and ethically.
   As parents, we can support our children in learning and encourage them to try their best by being good role models. It is our actions that really count when influencing our children.

9. You give impartial, honest and accurate information about the education, safety and well-being of students.
   Maintain regular contact with the class teacher – especially to inform of situations of major change at home.

10. You support all members of the school community in making informed decisions about students.
    Showing respect for teachers by using appropriate communication channels when dealing with the school.

11. You allow students to have a voice in their education, safety and well-being.

Ask children open questions and actively listen to what they say.
Children need to know their parents support them; however, support does not mean parents accept everything the child says as truth. We all know people can shade the truth to suit their purpose or perception.
Trying to be your child's best friend often means they have no adult to count on when they need it.

12. You maintain and build on the community's trust and confidence in Catholic schools and the Church.

Being involved in the school and church community.
Promoting a culture of helping out and the satisfaction of being involved and achieving.