



BRIDGE HOUSE

PRE-PRIMARY · PREPARATORY · COLLEGE

CODE OF CONDUCT

Created: R Malcolm

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Preamble:

In all of our policies:

Any contravention of the Constitution and the Laws of the Republic of South Africa is a contravention of the Bridge House Code of Conduct.

Any reference to any one gender includes the other genders (where applicable). The reference to any word in the singular shall include a reference to the plural (where applicable); and a reference to the plural shall include a reference to the singular.

Principles

The Bridge House Code of Conduct (for students) is based on, and reflective of the School's Values, Mission Statement and Strategic Plan, and is intended:

- To create an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance.
- To assist students in building strength of character and a meaningful value system.
- To encourage independent thought, to make informed decisions and to accept responsibility for and the consequences of these decisions.
- To have a disciplinary approach that encourages self-discipline. The purpose of discipline is to change behaviour, appropriately and positively.
- To generate a happy and supportive environment that promotes the desire to be an integral part of Bridge House.
- To encourage students to develop pride in themselves and in their school.
- To create an environment in which the learning and schooling experience of students is not compromised by the negative behaviour of their peers.

Behaviour Goals:

- Regular school and class attendance
- Adherence to the uniform code
- Punctuality, tolerance, acceptance and goodwill
- Courtesy and respect for individuals and property
- Cooperation and participation
- Reasonable decision-making
- Constructive critical thinking
- Diligence in study
- Good sportsmanship
- The pursuit of excellence
- Trustworthiness and honesty
- Respect for the whole environment

At all times Bridge House students are expected to act and dress in a way that brings credit to themselves, the school and the wider community.

Unacceptable behaviours:

Students are expected to exercise sound judgement about appropriate behaviour at all times. At no time may a student indulge in behaviour that is regarded as unacceptable at school, such as but not limited to the following acts:

- Assault
- Use, possession or distribution of drugs
- Consumption of Alcohol
- Sexual Activity and Sexual Harassment
- Smoking or vaping
- Bullying
- Insolence
- Vandalism
- Theft, including unauthorised borrowing
- Repeated misbehaviour
- Carrying of weapons
- Initiation
- Use of offensive language
- Hate speech
- Gender, racial, religious or other discrimination
- Dishonesty
- Malicious damage to property
- Deliberate disruption of the teaching and learning environment
- Intimidation

Transgression of the specific rules that apply in the laboratories, library and other specialist facilities and in the computer centres as referred to in the IT Computer Users Agreement.

These behaviours apply while at school and when it is possible to associate the student with the school.

Judgement about Behaviour:

Final judgement rests with the Head, who may involve management, staff members and student representatives as consultants in reaching fair judgement in serious cases. The Head may delegate responsibility for judgement, where appropriate, in certain matters, to heads of divisions, class teachers, other teachers and/or student representatives or a suitably qualified outside person.

Consequences:

- No corporal punishment or other unjust punishments are allowed.
- In less serious cases, the consequence for inappropriate behaviour, as ruled by the teacher or student representatives must be appropriate to the offence. Consequences could include detention, community service and repair of damage caused. Notification of a detention must be served with at least 24 hours' warning. Parents must accept that this may inconvenience them by having to fetch their children at a later time. Costs of repairs may be levied on the school accounts.
- In line with the current practice in labour law, first warnings can be of a verbal nature, followed by first, second and third written warnings. The warning letters will be placed on the student's file, for a period commensurate with the nature of the offence. Parents may be asked to sign acknowledgement of these warning letters.
- In serious cases, a final warning may be issued without any previous warnings having been given.
- In more serious cases, the consequence of unacceptable behaviour will be that parents will be called in, and/or the suspension of the student from the school for a period, and/or the expulsion of the student from the school.
- The Head, or delegated staff, will keep a record of serious offences and letters of warning will be sent to parents, if appropriate.
- In very serious cases, the Head may summarily expel a student without any warnings having been given. Parents of an expelled student have the right of appeal to the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Disciplinary Procedures Guidelines:

This Code of Conduct is to be read in conjunction with the Disciplinary Procedures Guidelines as found on the school webpage www.bridgehouse.org.za under General Information / School Policies.

The Code of Conduct must be read together with policies such as the Substance Abuse Policy, the Acceptance of Place contract and other policies that may be relevant to the offence.