



# CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS & VISITORS

## 1. Introduction

This document is the code of conduct for parents and visitors of Vaalpark High School, as approved by the governing body on 16 November 2017. The governing body has duly consulted the parents, learners and educators of the school on the content of this code of conduct. The code of conduct has been drafted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996; the South African Schools Act 84 of 1996 ('SASA'); the Regulations for Safety Measures at Public Schools (GN 1040 in Government Gazette 22754 of 12 October 2001, as amended) and applicable provincial legislation.

The code of conduct is aimed at creating a harmonious and disciplined school environment in which educators, coaches, parents and supporters enable learners to reach their full potential. In addition, it creates a yardstick by which the conduct of learners, parents, educators, coaches and management can be measured.

In terms of the South African Schools Act, the governing body and school principal have the right to regulate access to the school grounds and school activities. The governing body and school principal have a duty to ensure that no-one who poses a risk to learners, school staff or any other visitor to the school gains access to the premises. Any visitor to the school grounds may be searched for any illegal drugs or dangerous objects. The governing body reserves the right of access to the school grounds, and may refuse a person entry should this be in the best interest of the school and the learners.

Every parent and/or visitor to the school grounds commits him/herself to:

- faithfully adhere to this code of conduct and all the rules and regulations of Vaalpark High School;
- maintain high moral and ethical standards when visiting the school grounds or attending school activities;
- at all times strive for conduct that is responsible and that promotes the school's reputation;
- enthusiastically support the school and the learners; and
- show courtesy and respect towards all staff, learners, visitors and referees.

## **2. Associating with the school**

Parents and spectators should regard themselves as representatives of the school when attending matches, gatherings, performances or any other school activity, or supporting their children at such activities. Parents and spectators are encouraged to support both their children and as many other school teams as possible.

## **3. Conduct during school visits or school activities**

- 3.1. Parents and/or visitors shall conduct themselves in a way that does not harm the school's reputation or embarrass staff members or learners, and should through their conduct portray and build a positive image of the school at all times.
- 3.2. Parents and/or visitors shall apply self-constraint and show respect, courtesy and tolerance towards each other, educators, learners, fellow spectators, coaches, referees, judges and opponents.
- 3.3. Educators, participants, coaches, referees or judges may not be intimidated.
- 3.4. Parents and/or visitors are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the code of ethics required by a particular cultural activity or sporting code.
- 3.5. Physical violence, defamatory and offensive language or indecent signs during sport matches or other activities are strictly prohibited.
- 3.6. In addition, parents and supporters are requested to refrain from making negative remarks or using improper language when interacting with referees, other officials, judges, players or their opponents' supporters.
- 3.7. Parents attending any activity of the school shall comply with the requests and arrangements of the school concerned and/or the organisers.
- 3.8. Any form of violence or disruption that may have a negative effect on any school activity is prohibited.
- 3.9. The use of alcohol and illegal drugs during any school activity is strictly prohibited.
- 3.10. No weapons or dangerous objects may be brought onto the school grounds, unless intended for official work purposes, such as in the case of SAPS officers.
- 3.11. Visitors may only smoke in the designated smoking areas, and only if this does not interfere with the learners' education or activities. Consult the school's smoking policy, which stipulates the designated smoking areas.
- 3.12. Parents, supporters and spectators are requested to maintain the indicated distance from the side lines of any particular sports field or court, and not to go into the play area or any other demarcated areas on the school grounds or during an activity.
- 3.13. Parents and/or visitors are requested to keep the school grounds neat and tidy, and littering is prohibited.
- 3.14. Parents and visitors are requested not to go onto the field or court when a player sustains an injury. If deemed necessary by the coach/team manager or first-aiders, the player's parents will be called for.

#### **4. Conduct at culture and sports practice sessions**

- 4.1. Coaches may not be interrupted during culture and sports practice sessions, even if it is to give advice, make arrangements, request feedback or discuss complaints or problems.
- 4.2. Parents may in no way interfere with a coach's team selection.
- 4.3. Parents may request the principal/coach/team managers to discuss any enquiries, complaints and proposals at a suitable time and place.
- 4.4. Discussions between parents and staff/coaches should occur in a mutually constructive, courteous, composed and respectful way.
- 4.5. School property used during practice may not be removed from the school grounds without obtaining prior permission from the school principal, in consultation with the staff member responsible for the property. If any equipment is lent out to anyone, this should be recorded in a register, and the person should be notified that (s)he would be liable for any loss or damage.

#### **5. Communication**

Parents and supporters may discuss any enquiries or problems in respect of a specific activity with the organiser or school principal. The issue will be taken up with the relevant coach where deemed fit by the principal or organiser. Parents and/or visitors are requested to discuss any irregularities or complaints with the principal or governing body chair, and not with any other staff member or the media.

The governing body and school staff are committed to promote the school's interests at all times and to try to ensure the development of the school by providing quality education to all learners in the school. This commitment equally applies in respect of the organisation and conducting of all school activities. Therefore, parents and/or visitors are requested to support the governing body in this endeavour.

#### **6. Non-compliance with the code of conduct**

In case of non-compliance with the code of conduct, the transgressor will be kindly requested to immediately cease the conduct in question. Should parents/visitors' conduct disrupt any school activity, and said persons fail to comply with the principal or governing body's request for the conduct to be ceased, the governing body shall be entitled not to allow them onto the school grounds, as well as to remove them or have them removed, if necessary.