



COMMUNITY CHARTER

IONA PRESENTATION COLLEGE

1. Introduction:

Iona Presentation College values its partnership with parents/ guardians, students, staff and volunteers. In keeping with our Presentation ethos, the College recognises that central to its continuation of an authentic community, there must be a shared commitment between the College, parents/ guardians, students, staff and volunteers, to the common good (Mandate 6).

Positive relationships within Iona Presentation College's community are central to the effective functioning of the College, particularly where the assurance of wellbeing is concerned. All members of Iona Presentation College's community have the right to an experience that is defined by our Presentation Charism and College values, specifically:

- Courage & Integrity
- Love of Learning
- Heritage & Tradition
- Excellence
- Community
- Social Justice & Compassion

In this way, every individual within this community is supported in their journey to realise their potential, is encouraged to engage productively and fruitfully in their contributions to this community and thus ensure their own personal wellbeing, and that of their fellow peers. Iona Presentation College holds, in great esteem, its responsibility in ensuring an experience for all members of the community that is continually heightened, deepened and extended through perceptions of the heart (Sr Considine, 2000).

At times, a parent/ guardian may feel the need to communicate with the College certain concerns; in other instances students may choose to raise, on their own, issues that are best raised by them. At all moments, interactions between Iona Presentation College and its community will emphasise the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the individual (CECWA, 2019).

<https://presentationsociety.org.au/about/charism-and-spirituality/>

<https://www.iona.wa.edu.au/view/welcome/mission-and-values>

<https://www.cewa.edu.au/publication/bishops-mandate-2009-2015/>

2. Rationale:

A child-safe organisation, Iona Presentation College aims to provide an open, welcoming and safe environment for all. The Community Charter outlines the type of practice required by all members of the community to further ensure the continued wellbeing of students, families and staff. In this way, it is the expectation of the College that all members of the community model acceptable behaviour at all times within the school and at all school sponsored activities.

The Community Charter is designed to guide parents/ guardians and students in their dealings with staff, other parents, students and the wider school community. Rules of procedural fairness will apply where instances of complaint may arise, consisting of:

- A hearing appropriate to the circumstances
- Lack of bias
- Evidence to support a decision; and
- Inquiry into matters of dispute

3. To Whom the Policy Applies:

For the purpose of this Charter, the school community includes the Principal, staff, coaches, employees, students, parents, guardians, volunteers, step-parents, relatives, extended family, visitors, friends, supports, carers and invitees of the school, when on College grounds (both senior/ junior school campuses) or when attending any school related function/ activity at another location.

Parents/ guardians and students accept the Community Charter, and agree to adhere to all College policies, when signing and accepting their child's enrolment at Iona Presentation College.

4. Standards of Behaviour:

All members of our College community are called to act in accordance with the Gospel and Christian values in their public and private interactions with the College. Each member of Iona Presentation College plays an indelible role in the formation of a child's sense of justice, equity and worth; therefore, practice of the aforementioned must be ensured at all times. Furthermore, in striving to practice Gospel values, all individuals are called to:

- Ensure an inclusive approach toward others, refraining from judgement and being people of welcoming heart
- Show an ability to understand the circumstance of others, be cooperative and supportive when working with others
- Always communicate honestly, positively and respectfully to all
- Support the ethos of 'deeds not words', that is, behave in body, in a way that further articulates the Gospel and College values

4a. When communicating with members of Iona Presentation College's community I will:

- Always engage courteously in both written and spoken forms of language, refraining from use of profane, insulting or derogatory terms at all times. Threatening and/or offensive language in any form will not be tolerated or responded to
- Understand that responses to emails/ telephone calls from the College cannot always be instantaneous in nature, and should occur within 48 hours (unless critically urgent in nature)
- Comply with the College's Privacy Policy, protecting the confidentiality of those within my community
- Seek to encourage and support growth of the College and its community, rather than speak negatively
- Value and respect the Catholic identity of the school, including support of the College's pastoral and academic requirements
- Seek staff assistance, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully, and via the appropriate channels established by the College

4b. When participating within Iona Presentation College's community I will:

- Respect and support all school policies including Iona Presentation College's Community Charter, Student Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policies
- Contribute, when called upon, to the consultation and decision making processes of the College, supporting the work of the College Board and parent bodies
- Recognise that whilst on school grounds or when attending College activities, College staff are responsible for the supervising behaviour of students- under no circumstance is the physical interference of any person permitted
- Support the College's Behaviour Management Policy, and will refer matters or concerns pertaining to student behaviour directly to College staff

4b. When participating within Iona Presentation College's community I will:

- Under no circumstances, approach a student, parent/ guardian or member of the community in a confrontational manner
- Respect the legal and moral rights of others, and in the Presentation tradition, treat all with dignity, respect and civility
- Refrain from actions/ behaviours that constitute harassment, discrimination, defamation including via the inappropriate use of Social Media such as Facebook, Instagram or any other online forum
- Show proper care and regard for College property and the property of other members within this community
- Abstain from possession, or being under the influence of, or provide others (especially minors) with alcohol or illegal drugs. *(An exception to this is where alcohol may be made available to adults on account of hospitality purposes in keeping with appropriate legal and hospitality regulations.)*

5. In supporting student participation in Co-Curricular activities I will:

- Encourage the child/children in my care to take part in Co-Curricular activities of their choice, for their enjoyment
- Allow the child/children in my care to identify activities of interest and passion, and encourage their pursuit of these
- Encourage the child/children in my care to demonstrate good sportsmanship, fair play and respect for activity rules
- Support the child/children in my care's commitment to their teams, that is, attending practices/ performances/ games
- Remind the child/children in my care of their obligation to always adhere to College protocols concerning their safety and that of their peers; namely, adhering to the instruction of their teachers/ coaches and volunteers.

6. Breach of Community Charter:

The consequences to a member of Iona Presentation College's community for breaching the Community Charter will be determined by the principal, in accordance with the Iona Presentation College's Feedback Policy.

Sanctions which may be employed due to a breach of the Community Charter include:

- A first and final warning meeting and subsequent letter being issued to inform the relevant person/s of the breach, the investigation of a breach of the Community Charter
- Being banned from College (Junior & Senior Schools) grounds, including third party locations where College events/ activities are being held.
- A direction, in the case of parent/ guardians that they may only communicate with members of Staff through a specified school representative
- A restraining order being sought against the relevant person through the legal system
- The school may take other steps as it deems reasonable, to appropriately contend with the breach.

Any party may request a review of the Principal's decision, in writing, to the Executive Director of Catholic Education. Where possible, CEWA will acknowledge receipt of the complaint and will undertake a formal investigation of the area/s of dispute. Findings shall be made available where applicable and in accordance with CEWAs Dispute and Complaint Resolution Policy (2002).

Should a complainant be dissatisfied with the process undertaken, the complainant has the right to make an appeal to The Director General of the Department of Education. Any community member is entitled to contact the Director of Education with concerns about how the school has dealt with a complaint (breach of process).

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/dl/gom614>

7. Community Charter Acceptance:

Parents/ guardians and students accept the Community Charter, and agree to adhere to all respective College policies, upon admission of their child into the College via the enrolment process.