



# Connect and Respect Expectations

**Our schools are committed to providing quality education to all students in a safe, inclusive and caring learning environment. We value working together with parents and families as critical partners in student learning outcomes.**

Schools draw on the diversity and strengths of local communities to create opportunities to work collaboratively and set directions for students. Building mutually respectful relationships with each local community is fundamental to this.

A school community contains a wide variety of individuals and groups who strive to work together to educate students to become confident, well-educated young people; prepared to lead happy, successful lives and make contributions to local and global communities.

School staff will engage with families to understand the interests, personalities and needs of their children. All students need access to a quality education within safe and secure learning environments, and with the right supports to progress and achieve.

There may be times during your child's schooling when additional support is needed, or issues arise. Your school will support you and your child to productively resolve these issues and we encourage you to raise concerns as early as possible.

Shared and respectful expectations and values will enable us to work together in the best interests of our children.

## **All students need access to a quality education within safe and secure learning environments.**

### What parents and carers can expect from our schools

Communication between you and your school is an important part of your child's education. School communities thrive on open communication wherein staff, students, parents and carers have opportunities to share good news, discuss issues and maintain an open dialogue.

Schools are made up of hard-working and dedicated professionals who will listen, care and respond to your concerns and work with you to resolve complaints. We have found over time even the most challenging of circumstances can be worked through. You can expect some of the following from your school:

- regular communication through school approved channels
- reports on your child's progress and achievement
- celebration of your child's achievements
- notification of any serious single issue or ongoing issues concerning your child
- scheduled opportunities to meet with the classroom teacher
- other opportunities to meet with the teacher, by appointment
- updates about important developments in your child's class
- notifications or invitations to school events
- opportunities to provide respectful and productive feedback.

## What parents and carers should not expect from our schools

Our staff have families and personal lives too, and like all professionals, work at their best when they have a quality work-life balance. Parents and carers should not expect:

- school staff to return calls after work hours
- emails to be answered in the evenings or weekends
- access to teachers' private phone numbers or emails
- staff to meet with parents and carers, without an appointment, during a school day
- to be allowed on a school site if you have harassed or been aggressive towards school staff.

### You should contact your child's school if:

- you have concerns about your child's academic or social progress
- medical issues arise or diagnosis changes
- there are changes in family circumstances
- there are safety issues or changes in behaviour at home
- social issues arise that could impact the safety and welfare of students at the school
- you want to make or reschedule an appointment.

## Communication that interferes with teaching and learning

- speaking to staff disrespectfully or aggressively, especially in front of your child or other students
- expecting to meet with staff during the school day without an appointment
- visiting the classroom during the teacher's preparation time before school
- using social media platforms inappropriately and disrespectfully
- malicious or judgmental gossip
- By everyone playing a part in providing safe, positive learning environments and opportunities for our students, we enable them to be the best they can be.

## Communication methods

Electronic communication, such as email, is appropriate for short, non-urgent and positive forms of communication. It is not appropriate for more complex or emotional situations. In these cases, parents should request a face-to-face meeting so that issues can be given the time and attention they deserve. If in doubt, speak to your school.

## Concerns and complaints

Contact your school as early as possible if you have concerns. If you are not sure who to speak to, you can start with your child's teacher. For some matters, it may be appropriate to talk directly to your child's year coordinator, school administration staff or principal.

If you have approached your child's school but haven't been able to resolve the issue, refer to our complaints process to explore your options [education.wa.edu.au/complaints](http://education.wa.edu.au/complaints).

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