



PINEFIELDS PRE-PRIMARY AND AFTERCARE SCHOOL

CODE OF CONDUCT

Pinefields Pre-Primary and Aftercare is a small Christian Preschool which is committed to educating young minds by promoting values, ethics, and principles aimed at building a strong educational foundation for our little learners.

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

This document is the code of conduct of Pinefields Pre-Primary and Aftercare School ("Pinefields"), as approved by the governing body on __29__ of ____August____
20_20____.

The governing body has consulted the school's parents, learners, and educators on the content of the code of conduct.

The code of conduct has been drafted in accordance with:

- the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996;
- the South African Schools Act 84 of 1996 (“SASA”);
- the National Education Policy Act 27 of 1996;
- the Regulations for Safety Measures at Public Schools (GN 1040 in Government Gazette of October 2001, as amended);
- the Guidelines for a Code of Conduct for Learners (GN 776 in Government Gazette 18900 of 15 May 1998; and
- any relevant provincial legislation.

2. LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR THE CONTROL AND DISCIPLINE OF LEARNERS

The SASA at section 8(1) empowers a governing body of a school to maintain discipline in a school. The code of conduct must prescribe behavior that respects the rights of learners and educators.

By enrolling at Pinefields, the learners and their parents/guardians acknowledge and accept that they are subject to the code of conduct and must strictly adhere to its provisions.

The parents/guardians acknowledge and accept that it is their responsibility to ensure that their learner(s) understands the code of conduct and the expected standard of behavior whilst enrolled in the School.

The parents/guardians and learners accept that, should learners transgress or violate the code of conduct, they will be subject to the disciplinary procedure for learners.

The parents/guardians and learners accept that nothing shall exempt a learner from complying with the Pinefields code of conduct.

An educator at Pinefields shall have the same rights as a parent/guardian to control and discipline the learner according to the code of conduct during the time the learner is in attendance at the school, any classroom, school function or school excursion or school related activities.

The Principal or an educator, upon reasonable suspicion (sufficient information) has the legal authority to conduct a search of the learner for a dangerous weapon, firearm, drugs, any harmful dangerous substance, stolen property, or pornographic material brought on to the school property.¹ During a search human dignity will be observed and the learners shall be searched in private by persons of their own gender, preferably in the presence of at least one other person. A record will be kept of the search proceedings and the outcome.

3. INTRODUCTION

While the State has the obligation to make education available and accessible, this must be complimented by the commitment and acceptance of responsibility by the other partners in education, namely the learners, educators, and parents/guardians.

¹ A search may be performed in terms of the Control of Access to Public Premises and Vehicles Act 53 of 1985; the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act 140 of 1992; the Arms and Ammunition Act 75 of 1969.

Pinefields aims to provide a supportive environment, conducive to the commitment of academic growth, spiritual growth, cultural awareness, and physical and mental health.

Learners and their parents/guardians are expected to acquaint themselves with Pinefields' code of conduct and its provisions, as soon as the learners are enrolled at the school.

4. AIMS

This code of conduct aims to inform the learners of the way in which they should conduct themselves at School in preparation for their conduct and safety in civil society.

This code of conduct aims to establish a disciplined and purposeful school environment, which is dedicated to promoting and maintaining the quality of the learning process.

The code of conduct sets a standard of moral behavior for learners and aims to equip them with the knowledge and skills they would be expected to have as responsible members of society.

The main focus of this code of conduct is positive discipline, self-discipline, and exemplary conduct, as learners learn by observation and experience.

This code of conduct also imposes an obligation on the learners to be loyal to and uphold the name of Pinefields.

Pinefields upholds the following values:

- A Christian ethos – Pinefields promotes a Christian centered model which encompasses songs of worship and prayer, as well as observing those days which are of importance to Christianity.
- Acceptance – Pinefields teaches learners to be mindful, respectful, and accepting of the differences that each learner has, whether it be physical, cultural, or mental.
- A high standard of education – Pinefields upholds a high standard of education and promotes individual as well as group learning.

5. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEARNERS

Pinefields school rules are designed to regulate the general organisation of the school, and relationships between the principal, educators, and learners. Classroom rules are designed to give effect specifically to the relationship between educators and learners in the classroom and may include classroom interactions and management.

Pinefields expects that its learners:

- look presentable, neat and tidy and, wear appropriate clothing which allows the learners freedom of movement and play without overexposing themselves;
- do not wear any type of makeup or any form of jewellery (specifically hoop earrings);
- are to be polite and courteous and respectful to other learners, the educators and any other person on the school premises;

- attending the school are aware that it is a privilege and obligation of every learner to protect and carefully use all the facilities and equipment so that other can also enjoy the privilege. The damage, defacing, or misuse Pinefields' educational material and/or toys, or any other items on its premises, by a learner should be replaced or payed for the property so damaged, by that learners' parents/guardians. Destruction of property is a punishable offence;
- respect the classroom rules and not to be disruptive during class time. To commit themselves to do their schoolwork during classes, complete assigned homework, and catch up on work missed because of absence.
- do not bully, tease, name-call, or in any other way shame or verbally abuse (which includes the use of profanity and demeaning words or phrases as well as racist remarks) any other learner or educators;
- display a certain level of tolerance and self-restraint, and refrain from any action aimed at physically harming (or that could possibly cause physical harm to) any other learner or educator;
- do not conduct themselves or encourage any other learner to act in a manner which is sexual or constitutes improper physical contact; and
- respect the playground rules by sharing playground facilities and toys with other learners.

The ultimate responsibility for learners' behavior rests with their patents/guardians. It is expected that the parents/guardians will:

- support the school and require learners to observe all school rules and regulations and accept responsibility for any misbehavior on their part; and

- take an active interest in their learner's schoolwork and make it possible for the learner to complete assigned homework.

Parents should attend meetings that the governing body convenes for them.

These rules are not an exhaustive list and Pinefields reserves its rights to implement specific or general rules for any area or aspect of the school in order to facilitate its educational purpose and aims.

6. CONTRAVENTION

Once enrolled at Pinefields the parents/guardians and learners acknowledge and accept that the learners are subject to disciplinary measures should they contravene any general or specific rule or aspect of this code of conduct.

The parents/guardians acknowledge and accept that every educator at Pinefields is responsible for discipline at the school and that the educators have full authority and responsibility to correct the behavior of learners wherever such correction is necessary.

Pinefields has created the following procedure to handle disciplinary problems:

- a. The learner may be isolated from the other learners for an agreed period;
- b. The learner will be given an opportunity to reflect on their behavior;
- c. There may be a temporary withdrawal of privileges such as a fun activity or playground games;

- d. The learner's poor behavior persists, the learner's parents/guardians will be contacted and told about the learner's actions;
- e. Should the learner's behavior still not improve and there is complete defiance on the learner's behalf, their parents/guardians will be interviewed by the Principal of Pinefields and, if the learner is not able to show an immediate improvement in their behavior, their parents/guardians will be contacted again and transfer to another school will be discussed.

6. AFTERCARE AND HOLIDAY-CARE

The aftercare and holiday-care programs are those after-hours, supervised care facilities offered to the learners. The parents/guardians may use these services on a full-time or casual basis.

These programs are controlled and structured by the educators or other suitably qualified and experienced supervisors who will ensure the safety of the learners.