



## **BLACKROCK COLLEGE**

### **Halls of Residence – The Castle**



## **Code of Behaviour**



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## INTRODUCTION

The Hall of Residence (referred to as “The Castle”), provides a vibrant community for our boarding pupils. We aim to create a caring, homely environment where boys live together and develop in their own unique way. The central tenet of the Castle is the Christian belief that we should love our neighbour as ourselves. Boys of all ages are expected to show respect, care, compassion, kindness and forgiveness to each other.

All of our regulations are based on Christian values and natural justice. We create an environment where young people grow into mature, reflective citizens, conscious of their responsibilities to society and respectful of the rights and privileges they enjoy. The Castle Code of Behaviour is designed to aid the spiritual, emotional, social, intellectual and moral development of each boy appropriate to his level of maturity.

The fundamental values of The Castle are;

***Be There, Be Caring, Be Truthful, Be Grateful, Be Respectful***

These are more than rules. They are the manifestation of the Spiritan ethos in our College and Hall of Residence. The Code of Behaviour flows from these principles.

The following document outlines the rules and regulations which will assist your son’s daily routine. It is not an exhaustive document and cannot be expected to cater for every eventuality.

**Any matters not mentioned will be dealt with at the discretion of the Director of Boarding, whose decisions are final.**

## BEHAVIOUR

All boys are expected to behave reasonably, to consider the needs of others and to respond positively to the instruction of the Castle staff. Boarders who behave in a caring manner to one another will experience positive feedback from their peers and mentors. The Director and staff will reward good behaviour. An example may be a Study Pass, a permission for a “lie – in”, an extra exeat, prizes, pizzas etc. This list is not exhaustive.

The Castle seeks to encourage peer support, identity and a sense of belonging. **Senior boys are expected to set an example of caring, helpful and cooperative behaviour.**

In any community, there are sanctions for those who fail to adhere to the Code of Behaviour. The following list outlines the sanctions that a student may face, if he cannot meet the expectations and standards set. In all cases sanctions are administered having heard all sides and are proportionate to the offence and the age of the student. An apology or attempt to make amends is always expected.

1. Boys may be **detained** immediately after school (4-5pm) or for additional study in the mornings or evenings for the following indiscretions:
  - a. Tardiness for study, class, Mass, meals, bedtime and other scheduled boarding activities.
  - b. Causing distraction or not engaging properly during study.
  - c. Unsatisfactory performance in weekly cards.
  - d. Unacceptable personal tidiness or hygiene.
  - e. Unacceptable maintenance of bedrooms, study area and Castle facilities.
  - f. Unsocial or uncooperative behaviour.
  - g. Foul language.
  - h. Unacceptable use of mobile phones (e.g. in study, after lights out or improper texting).
  - i. Rowdy behaviour in rooms.
  - j. Ball play inside the Castle.
  - k. Making noise, talking after “lights out”. In this instance a boy may also be asked to rise early on the following morning and do morning study.

Boys may be required to do community service. Community service are light duties which assist the Housemasters, Housekeeping or Secretarial staff (e.g. picking up litter, cleaning kitchenettes, filing, etc). Mobile phones, iPads, laptops may also be confiscated for defined periods. Any privileges (e.g. kitchenette use, daily check-outs) may also be withdrawn. The Director or the Housemaster in Charge may also withhold privileges such as week-end exeats or outings for unacceptable behaviour. *Any other misdemeanours not listed herein may come under any of the above sanctions at the discretion of the Director.*

2. Boys may incur **suspension** from the Castle - in some cases the boy may attend class- at the discretion of the Principal for the following transgressions. This may be combined with some of the sanctions outlined above (in Section 1)

- a. Unauthorised absence from the Castle premises.
- b. Absence from study or class without permission.
- c. Acting in an unruly or vulgar manner.
- d. Refusing to follow the instructions of a member of staff.
- e. Being disrespectful to College staff.
- f. Aggressive behaviour, verbal or physical, towards another boy.
- g. Bullying other boys in person, as part of a group or via social media.
- h. Bringing a car onto school property.
- i. Being dishonest when approached by a member of staff.
- j. Bringing the College into disrepute in a public arena.
- k. Associating with a group engaging in unacceptable behaviour.
- l. Entering another boy's room without his permission.
- m. Smoking or vaping on College grounds, in the Castle building or during any activity associated with the College.
- n. Being in an out of bounds area as defined by Castle or College management.
- o. Videoing or photographing any person or activity associated with the Castle, without permission of the Castle authorities.
- p. Ordering fast food without permission.
- q. Frequent breaches of the Code of Behaviour.

*Other unacceptable behaviour not listed herein may come under the above sanction at the discretion of the Principal. In the event of a host family being required, costs must be assumed by the boy's parents.*

3. Boys may be **asked to leave the Castle permanently**, at the discretion of the Principal, for the following reasons. (Any such decision may be appealed to the College Board of Management.)

- a. Being on the school premises in an intoxicated state or in possession of alcohol.
- b. Being found in possession of illegal drugs or under the influence of same.
- c. Possession of a weapon or any form of pellet gun.
- d. Acting in an aggressive manner which may lead to injury of another person or damage to school property.
- e. Using abusive or threatening language to a Housemaster or member of College staff.
- f. Theft of property belonging to another person.
- g. Unsatisfactory behaviour over a prolonged period of time, despite repeated intervention.

## ROOMS

Boys are expected to keep their bedroom, their study area and the Castle facilities in good condition.

1. Boys will rise at 7:30 a.m. Monday to Friday and at 8a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Rooms will be checked each day. Boys who keep their rooms in good condition will be rewarded. Sanctions may be applied if a boys room is consistently substandard.
2. At the end of each study boys will remain in the study until the supervising housemaster is satisfied that the area is tidy and presentable.
3. Boys are responsible for damage caused to their room, accidental or otherwise, and parents may be held financially responsible for repairs, at the discretion of the College management.
4. Boys are responsible for the safekeeping of their room key. Failure to return a key may lead to a charge.
5. Boys must present all phones, laptops and iPads at lights out to the Housemaster.

## CHECK-IN FOR CLASS

All boys are expected to check-in by 8:35 a.m. and 1:35 p.m. Lateness will not be tolerated and, subject to report by his Dean, will result in weekend study detention. Boys may not enter the Castle between classes.

## WEEKLY CARDS

1. Weekly cards will be scanned and emailed to the parents
2. Boys, whose cards are repeatedly sub-standard, will be advised as to how to improve but may face sanction also. Extra study and or loss of privileges may be imposed. Opportunities to improve through study skills, peer teaching and group learning will be explored.

## PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE GROUNDS

1. No boarder may leave the College grounds without the permission of the Housemaster in Charge.
2. Daily check outs may be permitted at the Housemaster in Charge's discretion. The student must check out and check in and honor the timebound nature of their requests. Failure to follow the instruction of the staff will result in loss of privileges.
3. Breakfast and dinner are compulsory check-ins. Junior boys (1st- 3rd years) may only leave the grounds in pairs or groups. See the Programme for Boarding for further information.
4. Any student who leaves the ground without permission may be suspended from the Castle for an appropriate period at the discretion of the Principal. Repeated transgressions may result in expulsion from the Castle.

## STUDY

Study times are outlined in the programme for boarding document but these must be considered flexible and at the discretion of the Director depending on what is happening on a given day. Opportunities for group study and peer-learning will be provided and encouraged.

### Rules of study:

- (a) Boys must be sitting in their place at the commencement of study.
- (b) Boys may not disturb other boys.
- (c) Boys may not ask permission to borrow books or other items during study.
- (d) Boys may not bring food or drink into the study. Water is allowed.
- (e) Boys are expected to request permission for a bathroom break.
- (f) Newspapers and other reading materials of a non-academic nature are only permitted to 1st, 2nd and 4th years in the last half hour of second study at the discretion of the supervisor. We encourage the boys to read.
- (g) Electronic devices are allowed in study for educational purposes only. A boy must always request permission from the study supervisor before using such a device. Mobile phones are not permitted in the study.

Our intention is to create an atmosphere where kind, caring, helpful and studious behaviour is encouraged and boys can grow happily into mature, confident adults. The regulations are designed to create a secure, structured environment. We know that young people thrive in this type of environment. Those who occasionally fail to meet the standards expected will be given ample opportunity to reflect on their behaviour and make amends. **Genuine regret will be acknowledged and supported.**



**BE THERE      BE CARING      BE TRUTHFUL      BE GRATEFUL      BE RESPECTFUL**