

# SOMERSET COLLEGE AND THE PARENT RELATIONSHIP

It is a requirement of the College that the contents of this document should be studied by both parents prior to the beginning of a student's career at Somerset College.

Somerset College believes that a positive and constructive partnership between the school and a learner's parents or guardian is essential to the fulfilment of the school's mission. The school therefore reserves the right not to continue enrolment or not to re-enrol a student if the school reasonably concludes that the actions of the parent or guardian make such a positive, constructive relationship impossible, or otherwise seriously interferes with the school's accomplishment of its educational purposes or fails to uphold the core values of the school.

Parents best support a school climate of trust and respect by communicating concerns openly and constructively to the Educator closest to the problem, or to the Head of the School or where applicable the School Counsellor. Efforts by parents to lobby other parents or outside parties or to take up issues directly with other parents or outside parties without exhausting internal processes, will be viewed by the school as undermining of its processes.

**NAME OF PARENTS:** ..... (please print)

## DECLARATION

We, the undersigned parents/ guardian, do hereby agree and undertake to:

1. Observe the rules, regulations and codes of conduct from time to time made and/or published by Somerset College.
2. Recognise, respect and uphold the Vision Statement, envisaging a College which: offers a world-class standard of education; strives for excellence in all activities according to each individual's unique ability; nurtures sound, caring relationships; has a Christian foundation but fosters respect and understanding of other religions; creates a stimulating and challenging working environment for the entire College community; provides an educational asset which serves the wider community.
3. Recognise, respect and uphold the Vision Statement, envisaging a College which: encourages best use of talents and lifelong learning; is committed to core values of caring, honesty, integrity, diligence and respect for the needs of others; provides a broad and balanced programme that enhances the acquisition of life-skills; encourages students to think and act independently and to take responsibility for their decisions; encourages students to address the needs of the wider community in a responsive way; is managed on sound business principles
4. Recognise that effective partnerships are characterised by clearly defined responsibilities, a shared commitment to collaboration, open lines of communication, mutual respect, and a common vision of the goals to be achieved
5. Respect the school's responsibility to do what is best for the entire community, while recognising the needs of the individual child.
6. Familiarise ourselves with and support the school's values, policies and procedures and do nothing which may serve to undermine these processes.
7. Seek to resolve problems and secure information through appropriate channels within the school (i.e. Educator, Counsellor, Headmaster or Governing body- in that order).
8. Provide a home environment that supports the development of positive learning attitudes and habits that are consistent with those of the school.
9. Involve ourselves in the life of the school, through volunteerism and other means, to promote the best interests of the students.
10. Share with the school any religious, cultural, medical or personal information that the school may need to best serve their child and the school community.
11. Treat everyone with respect and dignity and maintain an educational, rather than confrontational tone, in the face of the inevitable conflicts and challenges which may occur.
12. Utilise the communication processes and support of the Parents' Association when appropriate.

**THUS DONE AND SIGNED** at \_\_\_\_\_ on this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_

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Signature of Mother/ Father/ Guardian

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