



CO-CURRICULAR POLICY

Rationale

St Patrick's College provides students with a wide range of opportunities to participate in co-curricular activities that will enhance the breadth of education enjoyed by all students. Such holistic educational opportunities exist in areas including sport, recreation, outdoor and environmental experiences, the performing arts and the creative arts.

Active involvement by students in such activities is a healthy means of broadening life experiences, developing social skills, and providing interactions in activities and with people in ways that may not otherwise occur and which support the development of the values espoused by the College. As such, co-curricular activities support and enhance the school curriculum but do not replace it.

The College provides resources (equipment, staff, playing fields and other facilities) to support a wide range of co-curricular activities. Where feasible, teaching staff take responsibility for coaching and organisation of activities but non-teaching staff, specialist coaches, mentors, and administrators from outside the College may also be utilised where appropriate. Positive parental support is encouraged with parent support groups active in a number of activities.

Participation in co-curricular activities at St Patrick's College is strongly encouraged, valued and inclusive, however it is not compulsory. The philosophical underpinnings relate to active and committed involvement, with success being measured much more broadly than by win/loss ratios alone. In line with the College's Teaching and Learning Policy, co-curricular pursuits (training, games, performances) generally occur outside of timetabled classes and may involve afternoon, evening and/or weekend involvement.

Scriptural Context:

'Sing to the Lord, sing to the music of harps, and to the sound of many instruments; to the sound of trumpet and horn acclaim the Lord is King!' Psalm 98:5

Policy Statement

Students at St Patrick's College will be strongly encouraged and supported in participating in co-curricular activities that are well resourced, professionally administered and which provide learning experiences consistent with the mission of the College.

Co-Curricular Participation Guidelines

The following guidelines aim to assist teachers, coaches, students and parents. Co-curricular activities at St Patrick's College are an important part of a full and balanced

education. The College is committed to fostering sound educational and social practices in all co-curricular activities in line with the College's mission statement and values.

Students, coaches or parents who engage in behaviours inconsistent with the mission of the College may forfeit the right to be involved in the co-curricular programme, in accordance with this policy. Practices which place the pursuit of victory or personal glory above those aspects of co-curricular activities concerned with enjoyment, balanced development, fair play and sound moral conduct are to be avoided.

If the Director of a co-curricular activity and or the Headmaster finds that any person including, coaches, students, parents, family members, guests and visitors who is or are involved in co-curricular activities of the College who breach any of the codes of behaviour then such disciplinary action can be taken against that person by the Director and or the Headmaster as they think appropriate which may include banning that person from the College grounds or from any further involvement in the co-curricular activity.

The following guidelines apply to sporting competitions and any activities where students represent the College.

Student Code of Behaviour

During co-curricular activities St. Patrick's College students should:

1. Play by the rules.
2. Treat all participants as they would like to be treated.
3. Not bully or take unfair advantage of other competitors
4. Avoid using deliberate violence towards opponents.
5. Understand that any sort of verbal provocation is unacceptable.
6. Avoid using bad language; whether directed at an umpire/referee, another player, oneself or anyone else
7. Never argue with an umpire/referee or contest their decisions. Any negative response towards an umpire's ruling is unacceptable.
8. Be aware that Immodest behaviour in victory or success, and manifestation of disgust at an error or failure are considered to be poor behaviour and are therefore unacceptable.
9. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants, regardless of their ability, race, ethnic background, gender or religion.
10. Acknowledge and applaud the efforts and achievements of all participants, regardless of the end result of a fixture or whether a player is an opponent or team mate.

Spectators and Parents' Code of Behaviour

Children appreciate the presence and positive support of parents and spectators. Parents and spectators are expected to:

1. Assume some responsibility for making visiting parents and spectators feel welcome, if St Patrick's is hosting a sporting fixture
2. Respect the host's premises and rules in matters of parking, tidiness and social etiquette, when visiting another school.
3. Never seek, during a match, to give advice to or criticise coaches, umpires/referees or to players.
4. Set an example to students by applauding good play from both sides and by refraining from verbal abuse or remarks that belittle players or umpires/referees.
5. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
6. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants, regardless of their ability, race, ethnic background, gender or religion.

Coaches and Coordinators' Code of Behaviour

Coaches and coordinators should ensure that:

1. The time spent with students is a positive learning experience. All young people are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
2. Positive constructive feedback on student performance is appropriate and any negative feedback on student performance is given in a considerate manner, whilst respecting the integrity and inherent value of each student.
3. They do not engage in any psychological abuse of students
4. Any physical contact with a young person should be appropriate to the situation, necessary for the participant's skill development, and be with their consent.
5. The rights, dignity and worth of all participants are respected, regardless of their ability, race, ethnic background, gender or religion.

The College will:

1. Involve students in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to the activity as appropriate.
 2. Celebrate the achievements of all students, regardless of the scoreboard or judge's verdict
 3. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their ability, race, ethnic background, gender or religion.
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Status of Policy: Ratified by the College Board, May 2013

Review: May 2018