



We have no control over fate and history, but we can control how we conduct ourselves in this life.

Jessica Zafra

Dear Families,

We are writing to make you aware of a couple of recent events within our community that deserve our careful attention and honest reflection, as the actions of an individual can have a ripple effect – either negatively or positively, on our whole school community.

It was very recently brought to our attention, that a parent from our school, who was frustrated while waiting to enter our school gate, gestured very rudely and explicitly to another parent, who was doing nothing more than following the road rules and entering our car park from the roundabout. Likewise, at the recent funeral of our dear friend Adolf D'Souza's wife, a parent paused to angrily complain to the hearse driver, that the hearse car was in the way! (Adolf acolytes at every school Mass, and was understandably heart-broken over the loss of his wife Tilly and this is the last thing anyone needs to contend with on such a sad day).

These examples, while thankfully few and far between, simply 'fly in the face' of who we are as a Catholic school and all parents of our community must understand that respect, consideration, care and in these examples, patience and good manners – are expected and demanded in our school. As you will be aware, all catholic schools are required to have a '**Code of Conduct**' as part of the System Agreement with the Minister for Education. Clause 6 (3) of the System Agreement states: "By 2017, all schools in the system are required to adhere to a Code of Conduct on child safety in accordance with a standard determined by the Minister under section 159 (1) (l)".

This 'Code of Conduct' not only needs to be abided by the staff of St Emilie's, **but also the parents**, students, volunteers and visitors of our school. The 'Code of Conduct' has been written by CEWA for implementation by schools and subsequently covers the requirements as stated above for all at St Emilie's. The St Emilie's Code of Conduct has been published on the school website since 2017 and the document is attached again so that you can read it and reflect upon the implications for you as a parent in our school.

The key point here is that upon enrolment, as a parent in our school, you signed off on agreeing to **abide by the ethos and policies of our catholic school**. It is expected therefore, that this type of inappropriate behaviour does not happen again by the persons involved and that if any parent has a problem or issue with any aspect of school life, they are to respectfully seek help through the appropriate channels.

How parents communicate to, and about one another, about staff and about children is also of equal importance. Calling another parent on the phone, to share second-hand news about the behaviour of their child, is inappropriate and stressful for the parent concerned. Teachers need to be allowed to do their job and this type of conduct interferes with our ability to make discerning and professional judgment about how and when a parent should be contacted, regarding any aspect of a child's education.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to those parents who reported these incidents and to all those who continue to act with **patience, courtesy, kindness and respect** in and around our school. The challenge goes out to each and every person in our community, to conduct oneself in a way that reflects the highest possible example to our children and to one another.

Sincerely,

Tania Thuijs Principal

Glenn Rozario Board Chairperson