

PARENTS' DECLARATION

THIS, WE ALSO, BELIEVE!

Being a parent is not, and probably never was, easy. It requires us to accept the most serious responsibility for the welfare of our own children. Being a parent is also the most profound opportunity to lay the foundations for an entire generation.

As a member of the Saint Stephen's College community, I accept that my responsibilities as a parent require me to provide mature guidance to my children and other children. This will require me to have courage! I accept that I am not perfect. As a parent I will make mistakes, and this Declaration does not commit me in a legal sense to anything not prescribed by law. However, I am prepared to make the following declaration and to have my name published as a signatory, because it will allow me to contribute to, and draw strength from, a College community that shares my values.

In signing this Parents' Declaration, I declare my commitment to the following values:

I value a community in which children are allowed to be children and are not forced to make adult like decisions before they are ready. Consequently, as a parent I will endeavour to provide my children and other children in my care with clear and consistent boundaries, and to think about how and when they should be introduced to adult issues. In doing so, I recognize that some of the opportunities available to children are likely to undermine the values of my family and the College. I will endeavour to protect my children and children in my care from these threats.

I value a community in which children are adequately supervised. Consequently, I will undertake:

- *To provide adequate supervision for other children when they visit my home or are in my care and to communicate with the parents of visiting children and discuss plans for any visit before accepting this responsibility.*
- *Not to provide alcohol or other drugs, including tobacco, to other children, or to my children when they are (or are likely to be) in the company of others.*
- *Not to allow children visiting my home to witness or participate in sexual activity.*
- *Not to allow visiting children to travel in vehicles driven by anyone other than myself without the express permission of their parents.*
- *To make other parents aware of any concerns I might have, including any extenuating circumstances that might cause a change of plans during a visit. I will also communicate any concerns I might have about activities that took place during a visit.*

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I value a community based on mutual respect and maturity. I will, therefore:

- *Encourage my children to accept that everyone is different. I will expect them to respect other people's religious beliefs and cultural practices provided they promote peace and acceptance of others.*
- *Also encourage them to respectfully challenge views that undermine our family's values and the values stated in this Declaration.*
- *Expect my children to develop and use good manners and show respect for adults ('respect' does not mean blind obedience).*
- *Encourage young people to constructively resolve conflict.*
- *Actively discourage children from swearing or using abusive language.*

I value integrity:

- *I will encourage my children to make and keep meaningful promises, including their commitments to the rules of the College.*

I value an abundance mentality and graciousness:

- *I will encourage my children to work with others and to recognize the contribution of other people.*

I value accepting responsibility:

- *I will encourage my children to reflect on their actions and to progressively accept responsibility for them, even if that means personal inconvenience.*

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Signature parent/guardian

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Signature parent/guardian

Dated

Full Name of student(s) enrolled