

## 1. THE CODE OF CONDUCT:

### 1.1. THE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES: THE RIGHTS OF THE LEARNERS

1.1.1. At Voortrekkerhoogte High School all learners shall have the democratic right to due process, participation in decision-making on matters affecting them and a method of appeal. Learners may express and resolve school-related grievances together with the SMT and SGB.

1.1.2. Any form of discipline embarked upon by the school is underpinned by dignity and respect.

1.1.3. Corporal punishment is prohibited at Voortrekkerhoogte High School.

1.1.4. The school will endeavour to provide learners with a clean, safe, healthy environment with access to clean running water and toilets and an environment that protects them from harassment and intimidation which may prevent them from attending classes and writing tests and examinations, thereby creating an atmosphere conducive for teaching and learning.

1.1.5. Learners have the right to expect educators to maintain high standards of professional ethics.

1.1.6. Human dignity, equality and freedom of choice and association – within the boundaries of the Code of Conduct.

1.1.7. Non-discrimination and equality – right to fair treatment before the law and by implication the Code of Conduct of the School.

1.1.8. Privacy, respect and dignity particularly referring to mutual respect for one another, their values and traditions.

1.1.9. Non-violence and the freedom and security of a person implying non-cruelty, inhumanity, degrading and certain values of mediation and co-operation as well as the seeking of non-violent solutions to conflict and differences.

1.1.10. The Right to Education and further education for all describing the entry level age of 7 years and the exit level age of 15 years or the ninth grade whichever comes first.

1.1.11. Upon registration parents and learners must accept and understand the rights pertaining to expulsion and the role and responsibility of the head of the Education Department, Gauteng providing alternative placement, reassignment to other classes, correctional education, and special schools for the behaviourally disordered.

1.1.12. Disciplined conduct is essential for the good governance and welfare of the school, for a climate that is conducive to learning, progress and development of learners for the successful attainment of the school's goals.

1.1.13. The Code of Conduct is based upon accepted legal and educational principles, which allows the school to function as a harmonious community with emphasis on especially the relationship between Educator and Learner as follows: (i) The policy aims to establish a safe learning environment which offers the necessary security against any form of disruption. (ii) The policy emphasizes the basic rights of educators to provide undisturbed instruction and to maintain an orderly learning environment. (iii) The policy requires the promotion of a climate of mutual respect

towards everyone involved with the process of education and instruction and of self-control and responsible behaviour which will bear witness of excellence at all times.

1.1.14 The Code rejects any action or neglect by any person who unlawfully encroaches upon the relevant basic rights of in our case fellow learners and educators, as entrenched in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act no. 108 of 1996), as well as the School's Act (Act 84 of 1996) and which is regarded as valid legal principle applicable to especially the school context and to this policy. (i) Disciplinary action is applied reasonably, relevantly and consistently. Primarily it will be aimed at remedial and corrective action, and in extreme cases punishment. (ii) Any learner who is accused on account of misconduct will, unless the learner voluntarily pleads guilty, be considered not guilty, until guilt is proven by means of a fair hearing. (iii) Excuses for/and admission of misconduct may not take place under duress of any nature and will not necessarily account for nullifying any form of unacceptable behaviour. This will only be allowed after due process and all stakeholders have been considered. (iv) In principle, mass punishment is not allowed, with the exception of proven mutual conspiracy among the concerned learners, except the provisioning of detention classes as and when required. (v) If a learner leaves the school premises without permission, the school will not be held responsible for any consequence of such action. (vi) No discrimination against a HIV positive Learner or Educator is allowed.

## 1.2 THE LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR THE CONTROL AND DISCIPLINE OF LEARNERS:

1.2.1 The South African Schools' Act empowers a Governing Body of a school to maintain discipline in a school. The Code of Conduct must prescribe behaviour that respects the rights of learners and educators.

1.2.2 The school will make every effort to ensure that learners understand that action may be taken against them if they contravene the Code of Conduct. In cases where action has to be taken, the school will inform the learners: (i) Why their conduct is considered as misbehaviour or misconduct. (ii) Why they are to be disciplined or punished.

1.2.3 All learners at the school are subject to the Code of Conduct without exception. The learners will be informed about its contents on enrolment at the school.

1.2.4 An educator at the school shall have the same rights as a parent to control and discipline the learner in accordance with the Code of Conduct during the time the learner is in attendance at the school or school related activities.

1.2.5 The Principal or an educator, upon reasonable suspicion, has the legal authority to conduct a search of any learner or property in possession of a learner for a dangerous weapon, firearm, drugs, or harmful dangerous substance, stolen property or pornographic material brought onto the school property.

## 1.3 THE 8 BASIC SCHOOL RULES: THE EIGHT BASIC SCHOOL RULES:

1. Follow the instructions the first time they are given.
2. Be punctual and well-organised
3. Keep hands, feet, objects and words to yourself

4. Listen while somebody else is speaking
5. Look after all property
6. Behave appropriately at all times
7. Accept responsibility and authority diligently
8. Accept accountability