Avalon College Student Code of Conduct

1. Purpose

Avalon College is committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for all students. This **Student Code of Conduct** outlines the standards of behaviour expected from all students at all times, including during the school day, extracurricular activities, and in the boarding houses. It ensures compliance with **VRQA standards, Ministerial Order No. 1359, the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic), and relevant Australian laws on bullying and cyberbullying.**

By signing this document, students acknowledge their understanding of these rules and their responsibility to uphold them at all times. This Code applies when a student is under the care or supervision of Avalon College, including:

- **During classes, study periods, and extracurricular activities on school grounds.**
- **In boarding houses, dining areas, and all residential facilities.**
- **During school excursions, trips, sports events, or travel to/from such events.**
- **In online environments, including school-provided digital platforms.**

2. Scope

This Code applies to:

- **All Avalon College students.**
- **All learning environments, including classrooms, boarding houses, excursions, and online activities.**
- **Student interactions on school grounds and in digital spaces, including social media and messaging platforms.**

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3. Student Rights & Responsibilities

Students at Avalon College have the right to:

- Learn in a **safe and inclusive environment** free from discrimination, bullying, and harassment.
- Be treated with **respect and dignity** by staff and peers.
- Express themselves **in a respectful and constructive manner.**
- Receive support for their **learning, wellbeing, and personal development.**

Students are responsible for:

- Treating others with **respect, kindness, and fairness.**
- Following all **school policies, rules, and instructions** from staff.
- Using digital technology **ethically, responsibly, and safely.**
- Avoiding **bullying, harassment, and discriminatory behaviour**, both in-person and online.
- Upholding **Avalon College's English-only policy**.
- Reporting any safety concerns or incidents to a trusted staff member.

If you ever feel unsafe, worried, or unsure about something that has happened to you or someone else, you can speak to **a trusted adult** at Avalon College. This could be your teacher, the Child Safety Officer, a Boarding House Staff member, or the Managing Director. **You will always be listened to, and your safety will come first.**

3.1 English-Only Policy

- Students must **communicate in English** at all times while on school grounds and during boarding hours, except for specific allocated times (e.g., designated home-language call hours).
- The English-Only Policy is in place to support language development and inclusivity.

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3.2 Technology and Device Use

- Students must adhere to **Avalon College ICT & Device Policy**, which restricts mobile phone usage during academic hours and study sessions.
- Any misuse of technology, including cyberbullying, inappropriate content sharing, or unauthorised recording, is strictly prohibited.

3.3 Behaviour in Boarding

- Students must **respect personal space, keep living areas clean, and comply with boarding staff instructions**.
- Curfew and check-in procedures must be followed for safety and accountability.

3.4 Dress Code and Uniform

- Students must **wear the prescribed school uniform** during academic hours and follow appropriate attire guidelines outside school hours.
- Personal grooming should align with school expectations.

3.5 Health and Safety

- Possession or use of drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, or vaping devices is strictly prohibited.
- Students must report any concerns regarding safety, health, or well-being to a trusted staff member.
- Physical violence, threats, or intimidation of any kind will not be tolerated.

4. Bullying, Cyberbullying & Australian Law

4.1 Definition of Bullying & Cyberbullying

Bullying is **repeated, unreasonable behaviour** directed at a student that causes harm, distress, or humiliation. Cyberbullying involves **the use of digital technology to harass, threaten, or intimidate others** through social media, messaging apps, gaming platforms, or online forums.

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Examples of cyberbullying include:

- Sending **threatening, harassing, or humiliating messages**.
- Sharing **harmful, misleading, or private information** about someone without consent.
- Creating **fake accounts** to impersonate or defame others.
- Encouraging **exclusion or online abuse** of a student.

4.2 Australian Cyberbullying & Harassment Laws

Under **Australian law, cyberbullying and online harassment are criminal offences**. The following laws apply:

- **Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth):** Illegal to use digital platforms to menace, harass, or offend others.
- **Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015 (Cth):** The **eSafety Commissioner** can remove harmful online content and penalise offenders.
- **Defamation Act 2005 (Vic):** Protects individuals from **false and damaging online statements.**

4.3 Consequences for Bullying & Cyberbullying

Students found engaging in bullying or cyberbullying will face:

- **School disciplinary actions, including warnings, behaviour contracts, and suspension.**
- **Mandatory education sessions** on respectful online behaviour.
- **Reporting to the eSafety Commissioner or legal authorities** for severe cases.
- **Parent/guardian involvement** and formal incident reviews.

By signing this Code, students acknowledge their understanding of these laws and the consequences of violating them.

5. Respectful Behaviour & Digital Conduct

All students must:

- **Communicate respectfully** in person and online.
- **Use school technology responsibly**, following the Avalon College ICT & Device Policy.
- **Report cyberbullying and inappropriate online behaviour** immediately.
- **Respect personal privacy and data security** when using digital platforms.

6. Consequences for Misconduct

6.1 Minor Infractions

- May result in verbal warnings, detentions, or loss of privileges.
- Examples include tardiness, minor uniform violations, or misuse of school property.

6.2 Major Infractions

- May result in suspension or behavioural contracts.
- Includes acts of bullying, repeated academic dishonesty, defiance of authority, or inappropriate technology use.

6.3 Serious Misconduct

- Could lead to expulsion or police intervention in cases of violence, possession of illegal substances, theft, or harassment.
- Avalon College reserves the right to take disciplinary actions in the best interests of student safety.

Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in:

- **Warnings, behaviour monitoring, and mediation.**
- **Loss of privileges, including technology access and extracurricular participation.**
- **Suspension or expulsion for repeated or serious misconduct.**

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Avalon College will handle violations **fairly and consistently**, ensuring that all students have access to support and guidance when required.

7. Acknowledgement & Signature

I, the undersigned, have read and understood the **Avalon College Student Code of Conduct**. I agree to follow these rules and uphold the values of Avalon College at all times.

Student Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

8. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed **annually** to ensure compliance with **VRQA expectations and Australian laws regarding student behaviour and online safety**.

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Signature:

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