



## COMMUNITY CODE

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Morling College's vision is to equip and shape Christ-centred people with exemplary character to impact the world.

### 1. The Morling College Community

Morling's vision, mission, values, curriculum and community life are formed by a firm commitment to the person and work of Jesus Christ as declared in the Bible. This identity and allegiance shapes the educational community of staff and students. The Morling community pursues truth and excellence with grace and diligence, treats people and ideas with love and respect, thinks critically and constructively about complex issues, and willingly responds to the world's most profound needs and greatest opportunities.

Morling College is rooted in the evangelical Baptist tradition. It is made up of Christian staff who, along with students choosing to study at Morling College, agree to form a community that strives to live according to Biblical precepts, believing that this will optimise the College's capacity to fulfil its mission and achieve its aspirations.

This Community Code document highlights that as members of a community we place ourselves under obligations to one another. As a community, members enter into an agreement and a relational bond whereby they accept reciprocal benefits and mutual responsibilities, and strive to achieve respectful and purposeful unity that aims for the advancement of all, recognising the diversity of viewpoints, life journeys, stages of maturity, and roles within the Morling community.

### 2. Community Life at Morling College

Being a part of the Morling Community involves a commitment on the part of all members to embody attitudes and to practise actions identified in the Bible as good, and to avoid those which are not. Such a distinctly Christian way of living finds its fullest expression in Christian love, which was exemplified fully by Jesus Christ, and is characterised by humility, self-sacrifice, mercy and justice, and mutual submission for the good of others. Members of the Morling College community, therefore, commit themselves to fulfilling the following expectations:

- Cultivate Christian virtues, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, compassion, humility, forgiveness, peacemaking, mercy and justice;
- Live lives characterised by honesty, civility, truthfulness, generosity and integrity;
- Communicate in ways that build others up, according to their needs, for the benefit of all;
- Treat all persons with respect and dignity, and uphold their God-given worth from conception to death;
- Be responsible citizens both locally and globally who respect authorities, submit to the laws of this country, and contribute to the welfare of creation and society;



- Exercise careful judgement in all lifestyle choices, and take responsibility for personal choices and their impacts on others;
- Encourage and support other members of the community in their pursuit of these values and ideals, while extending forgiveness and healing to one another.

### ***Expectations of all Community Members***

As a Christian community, Morling community seeks to honour and glorify God in every aspect of life.

All community members agree to:

- Treat everyone with respect, fairness and courtesy;
- Be familiar with, and abide by, Morling College's policies and procedures;
- Respect each individual's confidentiality and privacy;
- Avoid all forms of academic misconduct;
- Use of email, social media, Moodle and Internet appropriately;
- Be reliable in financial commitments and other responsibilities to the College;
- Follow work, health and safety guidelines;
- Be above reproach in the area of sexual relationships, where the Bible upholds sexual intimacy between a male and female only, within marriage;
- Disclose if they are subject to any form of criminal investigation. This must be done by notifying the Principal of Morling College of the situation as soon as possible;
- Seek to maintain a healthy, safe and welcoming environment for all;
- Seek to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. This includes:
  - Celebrating the achievement of others in relationships, studies, ministries and/or pursuits;
  - Showing compassion and care to those who are struggling emotionally, physically, mentally or spiritually;
  - Serving others in the context of healthy relationships;
- When on campus:
  - Be considerate of residents and neighbours by keeping noise on the Morling College Campus to a minimum, especially after 10pm;
  - Respect the environment, through the use of resources and care of College buildings and grounds.

All community members agree to avoid:

- Communication that is destructive to Morling College community life and inter-personal relationships, including gossip, slander and vulgar/obscene language;
- Behaviour that might reasonably be perceived as sexual, racial or gender based harassment, bullying or intimidating;
- Lying, cheating, or other forms of dishonesty including plagiarism and collusion;
- Stealing, misusing or destroying property belonging to others;



- Sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman;
- The use of materials that are degrading, dehumanising, exploitive, hateful, or gratuitously violent, including, but not limited to, pornography;
- Drunkenness, the use or possession of illegal drugs, and the misuse or abuse of substances including prescription drugs;
- The use of alcohol or use of tobacco on campus;
- Inappropriate use of email, mobile communications and the Internet;
- Violence;
- Damage or abuse of Morling College property.

### **3. Areas for careful Discernment and Sensitivity**

A heightened level of discernment and sensitivity is appropriate within a Christian educational community such as Morling College. In order to foster the kind of campus atmosphere most conducive to College ends, this Community Code both identifies particular Christian standards and recognises degrees of latitude for individual freedom. True freedom is not the freedom to do as one pleases, but rather empowerment to do what is best. In all respects, the Morling College community expects its members to exercise wise decision-making according to biblical principles, carefully accounting for each individual's capabilities, vulnerabilities, values, and considering the consequences of those choices to health and character, social relationships, and God's purposes in the world.

We acknowledge people face significant challenges in practising Biblical sexual morality within a highly sexualised culture. A Biblical view of sexual morality holds that a person's decisions regarding his or her body are physically, spiritually and emotionally inseparable. Such decisions affect a person's ability to live out God's intention for wholeness in relationship to God, to others, and to oneself. Further, the Bible affirms sexual intimacy is reserved for marriage between one man and one woman. Members of the Morling community agree to observe these principles. They also agree to strive for Christian discipleship, personal responsibility for actions taken, and avoidance of situations where temptation to compromise would be particularly strong.

### **4. Commitment to the Community Code**

This document applies to all members of the Morling College community. Unless specifically stated otherwise, expectations of this document applies to all staff and students; both on and off Morling College's campus and extension sites.

All students and staff are asked to read and consider the Community Code during their application process. Acceptance as a student or staff member invites them to be a member of the Morling College community with all the mutual benefits and responsibilities that are involved.

- Staff: Upholding this Code is a requirement for employment as well as commitment to abide by Morling College Employment Policies.



- Students: Morling College welcomes all students who qualify for admission. Students are expected to abide by the expectations contained within the Community Code, and by College policies published in the Student Handbook and on the website.

A record of their affirmation and agreement to meet this Code as well as other policies and responsibilities while a member of the Morling Community (with extra comment if necessary) is noted in their file.

## **5. Accountability**

The College provides formal accountability procedures to address actions by community members that represent a disregard for this Community Code or other applicable policies. These procedures and processes are outlined in Morling College's Student Handbook and Employment Policies and will be enacted by designated representatives of the College as deemed necessary.