



Community Code

Morling College's vision is to equip and shape Christ-centred followers to impact the world. We seek to be people who hold to the values of Christian faith and display exemplary character. Morling's Community Code aims to provide a portrait of what we hope our community to be as we study, work and share our lives. It reflects our Staff and Student Codes of Conduct and other policies which should be read in conjunction with this Code.

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 shape 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:

1. Cultivate Christian virtues, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, compassion, humility, forgiveness, peacemaking, mercy and justice;
2. Live lives characterised by honesty, civility, truthfulness, generosity and integrity;
3. Communicate in ways that build others up, according to their needs, for the benefit of all;
4. Treat all persons with respect and dignity, and uphold their God-given worth from conception to death;
5. Be above reproach in the area of sexual relationships, where the Bible upholds sexual intimacy between a male and female only, within marriage;
6. 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;
7. Exercise careful judgement in all lifestyle choices, and take responsibility for personal choices and their impacts on others;

8. Encourage and support other members of the community in their pursuit of these values and ideals, while extending forgiveness and healing to one another.

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 apply 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 College policies published 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.

By enrolling or working at Morling College people accept an invitation to be a member of the Morling College community with all the mutual benefits and responsibilities that are involved.

Addendum to the Community Code

for students originally enrolled at Vose Seminary prior to January 1st, 2021

Preamble

Prior to 2021 Morling College in Sydney and Vose Seminary in Perth were two distinct entities. The two colleges merged their operations in January 2021 towards becoming one national Baptist tertiary educational provider. One distinction between the two colleges was that historically, Morling College had a 'closed' enrolment policy, admitting only Christians to their courses of study, while Vose Seminary had an 'open' enrolment policy, allowing students from a variety of faith traditions and/or none to enrol in their courses. This distinct policy difference requires a temporarily adapted Community Code for students enrolled before Jan 1st, 2021 at Vose Seminary.

While most Vose Seminary students have been professing Christians, this has not been true of every student. Those students who do confess Christian faith are expected to adhere to the Morling Community Code as it presently stands (unless they submit a written request to the Principal for exemption from the Community Code). This addendum has been prepared in acknowledgement that not every student who has enrolled at Vose Seminary prior to Jan 1st, 2021 confesses Christian faith, and agreement to abide by the Morling Community Code was not a condition of acceptance when they were originally admitted as students of Vose Seminary.

The Code

1. The Perth campus of Morling College welcomes all students who meet and maintain the educational requirements.
2. Morling College has a long and fruitful heritage as a Christian college, founded to offer Christian educational qualifications, and to prepare men and women for Christian service. As such the College maintains a distinctively Christian ethos which permeates all aspects of College life.
3. Thus, all students are required to acknowledge this heritage and ethos and agree to respect it while engaged in all Morling-associated activities, adopting modes of conduct and interaction appropriate for a Christian environment, as illustrated in the Morling Community Code.
4. All students shall acknowledge and agree to the educational philosophy of Morling College, including the explicitly Christian orientation to and content of the courses, and including the presentation and discussion of course materials, and the expectations of all participants in the classroom, campus, and online environments.
5. In line with Morling College's Academic Freedom Policy, students may develop arguments for their perspectives, whether or not the perspectives are consonant with Christian faith. Grading for assessment tasks is in accordance with the requirements set for the task and standard academic procedures, not whether one aligns with the doctrinal beliefs or standards of the College.
6. All students are referred to the following biblical passages that inform the Morling College Community Code. This list is indicative rather than comprehensive but serves to highlight the vision and expectations of community life, and behavioural and relational expectations appropriate for all members of the Morling Community.
 - Matthew 5 – 7 Jesus' Sermon on the Mount
 - Micah 6:8 A summary statement of the life that God desires for his people
 - Psalm 15 Another picture of the kind of life appropriate for the people of God
 - Romans 12 – 14 Christian love & Christian freedom
 - Galatians 5:13-26 A 'spiritual' life
 - James 3:13-18 A 'wise' life
 - 2 Peter 1:1-11 A virtuous life