



Heights College

Our Christian Culture

At Heights College, we are committed to partnering with you to provide a distinctively Christian education that is grounded upon Biblical values, and the promotion of a positive and engaging learning environment. It has been wisely said that "it takes an entire village to educate a child" and staff at Heights College are dedicated to the cultivation of strong teacher-parent-student relationships and a genuine community of care throughout the entire educational journey.

Our core purpose is to educate in a way that inspires Godly character and leadership, and we strive to lead the students along a pathway of values-based experiences in their learning, a pathway that call **'The Heights Way'**.

The 'Heights Way' is our framework to promote a range of learning experiences and clear expectations. The four pillars, based on a Christian worldview, which we use to encourage our students are:

Character

Developing the moral excellence that is made in the small moments of our lives, and is often described as who we are when no one is looking.

Leadership

Developing leadership skills through relationships with others, and developing ability to use our giftings to their full potential in any situation.

Influence

Be aware of the influence we have on our peers, other students, community members, staff and family through our thoughts, words and actions.

Breakthrough

Achieve breakthrough in an area of our lives, whether it be physical, academic, spiritual or emotional, through prayer, practice and persistence.

Using these 'pillars' consistently provides guidelines for students' daily values and attitudes, to make students aware of their responsibilities towards themselves and others, and to give them the skills and opportunity to become self-disciplined, rather than self-centered.

Our expectations for students' behaviour and manners covers:

Personal Life

Heights College's ethos and foundation is based upon foundational Christian values and students are expected to reflect these values in every aspect of their lives, striving to do everything to the best of their ability at all times.

College Life

Courtesy and respect towards those in authority over them, to be courteous, kind and fair to others, and treat others with respect, to seek to co-operate with each other, and be tolerant of each other's point of view and to respect and care for their own property and that of others.

Public Life

We expect all students to behave in an appropriate manner both on and off the campus, especially when wearing the College uniform, as the uniform identifies them as a student of Heights College.

College expectations allow the College to work with parents in developing appropriate values and attitudes within students. These are:

- Students are expected to respect themselves, other students, staff and property belonging to others.
- Students are to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner when engaging with social media so that the College name is not brought into disrepute.
- Students are encouraged to observe the warning bell to ensure they will be prepared and on time for classes.

- Students are asked not to bring valuables, such as mobile phones, smart watches or other similar items to College as they are an unnecessary distraction, and may be lost or damaged.

The Student Diary contains further encouragement to students on the expectations that the College has for their behaviour, values and attitudes, but key areas to note are:

Boy / Girl Relationships

Group friendships amongst boys and girls are encouraged at school. Occasionally a situation arises where the friendship between two students of the opposite gender begins to dominate all the other relationships and this is not encouraged by the College on school grounds.

A student should not have inappropriate physical contact with another student. Students should be encouraged not to spend time exclusively with a member of the opposite sex at the expense of other relationships. We consider this to be healthy and sensible Biblical wisdom.

Courtesy/Etiquette

Heights College is committed to ensuring consistency in both approach and the extent to which members of its community adopt the use of good manners. The vision statement for Heights College places a major emphasis on developing personal relationships and this is best facilitated by a mutual respect being achieved between each person in the relationship. Every person is created in the image of God (Gen 1:26) and hence each student is to be treated as an individual with God-given worth.

This respect is evidenced in the manners displayed towards each other. Lack of manners/self-discipline is unacceptable and a consistent ignorance of this is not tolerated. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken as required.

Students are made aware that rudeness is the result of their decision to be rude. The aim of this policy is to make students aware of their responsibility concerning behaviour and manners, and to give them the skills and opportunity to become self-disciplined and Christ-centred, rather than self-centred.

The following actions and attitudes must be adopted:

- *Quiet and respectful behaviour:* Shoving students at doors etc. is unsafe and un-Christlike.
- *Entry to and departure from rooms:* Students will wait quietly, and will proceed in an orderly fashion as determined by the teacher.
- *Punctuality:* to class, Praise and Worship, appointments etc.
- *Respect:* recognition that God has ordained authorities and that all must submit to those in authority.
- *Addressing and responding to adults:* Students are to use the relevant format or Mr, Mrs or Miss; teachers are to address students by the first or preferred name.
- *Manners:* Requests must include a “please”, with responses acknowledged with a “Thank You”. (In all things give thanks).
- *Interruptions:* Should a conversation or class need to be interrupted, the use of, “Excuse me”, is appropriate. eg. “Excuse me, Mr Hudson, could I please speak to John?”
- *Being addressed:* When students are being addressed, a mature posture is to be adopted e.g. standing/sitting upright, eye contact maintained. Whilst on Assembly, this includes sitting upright, and maintaining eye contact.
- *Stewardship:* Correct, careful and safe use of equipment is the responsibility of each student.
- *Greetings:* Students and teachers are greeted politely.
- *Visitors:* Unannounced visitors to the classroom are acknowledged where appropriate, at the discretion of the teacher.

Classroom Rules

- Line up quietly outside rooms and wait for the teacher.
- Enter and leave classrooms in an orderly fashion.
- When an adult enters a classroom for the first time, upon instructions from the teacher, politely greet him or her.
- Sit on chairs properly and keep desks tidy. Do not swing on chairs.
- Be a good listener. Do not disrupt others or talk unnecessarily in class.
- Keep the classroom clean and tidy.
- Eating and drinking in class is usually unacceptable.

Language Expectations

Rationale

Heights College is committed to ensuring a consistency in both approach and the intent with which language is used by members of its community. Heights College’s Vision Statement emphasises the development of personal relationships, and this is best facilitated by a mutual respect being achieved by each person in the relationship. Language is often the mode by which this respect is communicated to others. The use of inappropriate language, either verbal or non-verbal, is unacceptable.

The significance of language is not to be understated. James 3 states that, “the tongue is a rudder and steers the whole boat”, and reflects Proverbs 18:21 which says that “the power of life and death is in the tongue.” This implies that each individual is to take responsibility for and control of his/her own language, and hence affect his/her life’s journey and destiny. We aim to equip students with the skills required to take responsibility and to outline principles to enhance this empowerment.

Rights and Responsibilities

- Each person has the right to learn in an environment where positive, non-offensive language is enforced. Therefore, it is everyone’s responsibility to use appropriate, positive, non-offensive language at all times.
- Each person has the right to interact in an environment where he/she will be treated with respect. Therefore, every person has the responsibility to use only language that encourages and edifies others.
- It is each person’s right to feel secure. Therefore, it is each person’s responsibility to respect the contribution of others.

Skills of Preventative Management for language

- Staff members and students need to act promptly to discourage inappropriate language being used; for example, vulgar and harassing language.
- Everyone has the responsibility to model appropriate language usage inside and outside the classroom.
- Staff and students are to avoid the use of negative language towards others.