

Code of Conduct

Sancta Sophia College

Sancta Sophia College is an academic community founded in values of respect, integrity, ethical decision-making and care for others.

Sancta Sophia College recognises that everyone in our community has the right to live, study and work in a safe and supportive environment. All members of the College community have a role in creating and maintaining a safe and respectful environment.

The Sancta Sophia Code of Conduct requires familiarity with and adherence to College Policies and Procedures. While most issues are dealt with pastorally, students need to be aware that serious breaches of this Code of Conduct and with associated Policies can result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the College.

Required conduct:

Sancta requires all members of the Sancta community (students, staff, Council members and guests) to:

1. Act honestly and with integrity
2. Treat all people with dignity and respect
3. Be respectful of property
4. Uphold the academic purpose of the College
5. Abide by Sancta policies and procedures
6. Act in accordance with the requirements of the University and the laws of the land
7. Uphold Sancta as a safe and supportive community

Acting honestly and with integrity

Honesty and integrity are attributes that enable trust and confidence. Acting with integrity means being accountable for your own actions and taking responsibility when you make poor choices. It means openly advocating for what you would like to see in the College environment and expressing your views honestly and in good faith.

Treating people with dignity and respect.

Sancta is a home-away-from-home for students from across NSW, Australia and the world. It is known for the sense of community and positive relationships it engenders in all. This is because there is no tolerance within the community for transgressing anyone's entitlement to dignity and respect. Sancta does not tolerate any form of discrimination, bullying, harassment or hazing of any person, for any reason, at any time.

Being respectful of property

Many people over many years have worked to create the beautiful environment of Sancta that we enjoy today. Sancta recognises that we all have a responsibility to be stewards of our environment, and to protect and preserve it for our fellow community members, and for those who will join our community in years to come.

Uphold the academic purpose of the College

Everyone at Sancta is investing in their future through their academic endeavours. Pursuing an academic goal is not always easy and we are all challenged to maintain balance and focus. Upholding the academic purpose of the College requires all residents to take studies seriously, meet course requirements, and attend class. It also means supporting the academic efforts of others within the College, minimising distractions or disruptions, and using study spaces as intended. Sancta supports a culture that is curious, open to rigorous discussion and debate, respectful and challenging.

Abiding by Sancta policies, procedures and guidelines

Sancta's policies, procedures and guidelines are designed to maximise a positive student experience, promote respect and dignity for all, and support the safety and wellbeing of everyone. Sancta's policies and procedures are reviewed annually, and all students are invited to provide feedback to aid in the review process.

There are key policies which all students are required to be familiar with and to uphold. To act contrary to these policies would represent a major breach of this Code of Conduct and result in disciplinary action. These policies are:

- *The Sancta Sophia College Sexual Misconduct Policy*
- *The Sancta Sophia College Bullying, Harassment, Discrimination and Hazing Policy*
- *The Sancta Sophia College Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy*

These policies are supported by *The Sancta Sophia College Complaints and Grievances Policy*, which articulates the process to be followed by students and staff in the event of a complaint, grievance, or breach of the Sancta Sophia Code of Conduct and related Policies.

Guidelines and other policies are published in Sancta's *Walk in Wisdom Guide*. Serious, repeated or wilful breaches of such guidelines may also attract a disciplinary response.

Act in accordance with the requirements of the University and the laws of the land

Sancta Sophia College supports and requires students to act in accordance with the policies of The University of Sydney and other learning institutions where applicable. This includes matters of conduct and behaviour, academic integrity, and health and safety issues. It also includes conduct and behaviour in relation to Intercollege events and activities. Students need to be aware that the Principal may be obliged to refer serious breaches of University codes or policies by any College student to the University, as well as investigating or taking disciplinary action herself.

All members of the Sancta community, wherever they are, are also subject to the law, which applies in College as it does in the wider community. Students need to be aware that serious indictable offences must be reported to NSW Police under Section 316 of the *NSW Crimes Act 1900*.

Uphold Sancta as a safe and supportive community

Sancta has a strong reputation for being a safe and supportive environment for the students who call it home. This reputation has been earned over many years and is the result of the culture embedded by our founders, strong leadership at both student and management level, and our continued zero tolerance approach to behaviour that sits outside of broader community expectations.

Students, their families and the university community have confidence in Sancta because our culture does not tolerate the mistreatment or endangerment of others: this is parallel to their knowledge that our students and staff will take action should they become aware of any conduct contrary to our values. It is the responsibility of every single community member to ensure that this culture continues.

It is important that students do not conduct themselves in a manner that brings the College into disrepute, because it undermines the sense of security to which our students are rightly entitled.

Internally and externally, Sancta has access to a broad range of supports and services that can help students manage physical and mental health issues, academic challenges, and just about anything else that may arise. Students are encouraged to seek help for themselves and each other when it is needed.