



**GENERATIONS
CHRISTIAN
HOMESCHOOL**

Code of Conduct

The Importance of a Code of Conduct

Generations Christian Homeschool is a supplement to parent-led learning and social training. Although each Generations Christian Homeschool (GCH) family is bound to have slightly different standards of behavior, the GCH Code of Conduct outlines standards that are in keeping with Biblical guidelines on which the majority of us have agreed and/or are beneficial in a group situation.

Each person attending an GCH event, whether adult, youth, or child, will be expected to abide by the following standard of behavior. We have all agreed to be held to this standard and we are trusting one another to keep that commitment. Therefore, if you choose to leave your child(ren) under the supervision of GCH Instructors and volunteers, you should feel assured that these common standards of behavior will be expected of your child. It is each parent's responsibility to be knowledgeable about, and to make their own child(ren) aware of GCH's standards of behavior. Likewise, enforcement of these standards is ultimately the responsibility of the parent(s) of each student. The Commitment Pledge that you and your children sign is your agreement to participate in all GCH events accordingly. A standard of behavior that encourages everyone to act in a Christ-like manner will make GCH classes manageable for everyone. We trust that this will open new opportunities for our group.

In addition to the requirements listed below, it should be understood that each teacher will have a particular classroom culture and set of classroom rules and rewards by which all students should abide.

Standards of Behavior

1 Peter 3:8--Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another, love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous...

Behavior:

Refrain from any careless, unkind, foolish, or rude behavior.

Let the command to "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," be your guide. Commit to representing Christ in your attitudes and behaviors toward others.



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Bullying, physical aggression, recklessness, abuse of property, or violent behavior that endangers others will NOT be tolerated.

Speech:

Honor others with your speech.

Children and adults alike should refrain from making unnecessary noise or participating in off-topic discussions or activities during classes and assemblies.

Curse words, any use of the Lord's name in vain, and other offensive speech are unwelcome at GCH.

Lies, gossip, insults, put downs and other forms of verbal bullying will not be tolerated.

Property:

Show respect for others' property by using only what you have permission to use.

Keep personal items inappropriate for classroom activities at home or put away. Any violation of this rule may result in an item being confiscated and held until a parent retrieves it. A few examples of such items are toys, knives, cell phones, gaming devices, off-topic media, etc.

Take care to leave every place in a better condition than you found it.

Restitution for abuse or neglect of others' property, including school property, will be the responsibility of the member causing damage.

Electronic Devices and Internet Access:

Students should use electronic devices during class time ONLY for class activities as directed by the Instructor. Students should only access the internet under the direct supervision of their own parent or as directed by an Instructor for the purposes of approved class activities.

If a student believes it is important to use their electronic device they may ask the instructor for permission. If granted, the student must stay near the adult for supervision while using the device.

The school Wi-Fi password is available only to Instructors and Leadership.

Students should not share their Internet-ready devices, or any content on them, with any other student.

There will be zero-tolerance for inappropriate Internet use, up to, and including dismissal from GCH. Any electronic devices used contrary to these guidelines will result in the student's parent being called to campus immediately. If the student's adherence to this



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policy is in doubt it is best for the student and/or parent to make the decision that the student will leave their device at home.

There will be zero tolerance for the inappropriate use of media.

Respect:

Children should show respect for adults in speech, manners, behavior, and attitude.

Organized group events are an ideal place for homeschool students to practice group etiquette by raising their hands before speaking, waiting for a turn, and occasionally standing in line.

Parents are encouraged to instruct their children to use “Mr.,” “Mrs.,” or “Miss” with last names when addressing adults, including Instructors and Class Assistants.

Limiting interruptions, looking for opportunities to serve, and practicing first-time obedience are a few ways our children can show respect.

Attentiveness:

Show your appreciation to Instructors, Class Assistants, and guest speakers by being obedient and respectful.

All in attendance should listen quietly and attentively. The use of common manners will be expected.

Children should raise their hands before making comments or asking questions.

Part of showing respect for the Instructor is to come to class prepared. If preparation is required for the class and a student comes to class unprepared, he/she may have to observe during that portion of the class which required preparation.

Homework:

Parents please understand that in all classes the content layers on the previous work and if you want your student to attain the full outcome, all assignments must be completed.

Being an Example:

All members should be mindful that they will be looked to by younger peers for examples of the standard of behavior in a given situation.

Set a good example and offer deference to younger members at all GCH events.



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Dress Code:

Our appearance reflects ourselves, Generations, and, importantly, Christ. Keep in mind general principles of cleanliness, neatness, and modesty of dress.

All students must obey the following dress code:

- 1) Shirts - Polo Shirts with collars should be worn by all students attending core classes. Families may choose short sleeve or long sleeve. Examples can be seen below. Polo shirts can be purchased at the store or your choice



- 2) Clothing should not be tight or revealing.
- 3) Bottoms must be worn at the waist and be long enough to cover the upper thigh. Usually the guideline of “fingertip length” is used for shorts, but for some this is inconsistent. A better guideline is to measure three inches up from the knee. Shorts should be no shorter than that.
- 4) No pajama tops or bottoms may be worn to school.
- 5) Sweatshirts and sweaters may be worn, but must not depict disrespectful logos, images, or language that targets others or illegal substances of any kind. They should also not be worn to hide a lack of polo shirt.



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- 6) Appropriate footwear should be worn at school. Tennis shoes, sneakers, sandals, and crocs are allowed. Slippers and flip-flops are not allowed.
- 7) Parent and student clothing must not depict disrespectful logos, images, or language that targets others or illegal substances of any kind.
- 8) Do not expect that an exceptional activity or extreme weather will warrant an exception to GCH's dress code.
- 9) When in doubt, please err on the side of modesty.

Cell Phone and Technology Use:

Computers and cell phones can be used in class as allowed by the teacher in supervision. They are not to be used outside of class without express permission from a teacher or administrator.

- Use of technology in defiance of these rules is a major infraction and will follow the “major infraction/bullying” section of this code of conduct.

Flirting/Dating:

Since each family has different ideals and expectations about dating or courtship, GCH activities should not be a place for the practice of either.

Obvious flirting and any public displays of affection should not take place at GCH activities.

Bullying:

GCH is using the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program as a basis for our bullying prevention program. This research-based program reduces bullying in schools. It also helps to make school a safer, more positive place where students can learn. Although this program takes place at school, we need your help too. Please take the time to talk about bullying and our school's anti-bullying rules at home with your child. We want to work with you to prevent and stop bullying from happening at our school.

Expectations (4 anti-bullying rules):

1. We will not bully others.
2. We will help students who are bullied.



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3. We will include students who are left out.
4. If we know that someone is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

What is bullying?

Bullying is when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself. Bullying behavior is aggressive and involves a *pattern* of behavior over time characterized by an imbalance of power or strength (physical or social). Bullying can take many forms, such as hitting, verbal harassment, spreading false rumors, not letting someone be part of the group, and sending nasty messages on a cell phone or over the internet (cyber-bullying).

What does our Bullying Prevention Program consist of?

The program aims to prevent or reduce bullying in our Co-Op. The program is not a curriculum, but a program that deals with bullying at school-wide, classroom, individual, and community levels. Here is what happens at each level:

School-wide:

- Teachers and assistants are trained to use the program and deal with bullying problems.
- A school-wide committee oversees the program.
- All students will follow the four anti-bullying rules listed above.
- Staff will make sure that all areas of our school where bullying is likely to occur are being watched.

In the Classroom:

- The four anti-bullying rules are taught in all classrooms.
- Class meetings are held where students talk about what bullying is. Students learn why bullying should not happen. They will also learn to ask an adult for help if they see or experience bullying.
- School rules against bullying are posted and enforced.
 - Stop the bullying.
 - Name the behavior of the bullying student and refer to 4 anti-bullying rules.
 - Impose immediate/appropriate consequences for bullying students.



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On the spot interventions:

1. Stop the bullying.
2. Support student being bullied.
3. Name the behavior of the bullying student and refer to 4 anti-bullying rules.
4. Show appreciation to supportive students or give tips for supporting in the future.
5. Impose immediate/appropriate consequences for bullying students.
6. Take steps to protect the bullied student from future bullying.

Enforcement of the Code of Conduct

Of course, we all understand that children misbehave at times. An advantage of homeschooling is that, in most cases, we get to be with our children to help train and guide them through new or difficult social situations. One of the reasons for participating in group activities is to have opportunities for social training that we might not have within our own homes. Because we are partnering with other homeschooling families, we should be surrounded by friends who understand the trials and joys of this significant responsibility.

As we fellowship and build relationships, we trust that all will be thoughtful of others and display Christ-honoring attitudes and actions. When instances arise where there is an offense or concern, approach the matter prayerfully, first considering your own part in the matter. Then let the Matthew 18 principle be your guideline:

This means that you should speak directly, in a calm, friendly manner, to anyone who has offended you or caused you serious concern. If you are unable to resolve the problem between the two of you, please bring the issue to your teacher or a member of GCH Leadership. They will assist you in further addressing the matter with the parties involved. If there continues to be a problem, the entire Leadership Team will be consulted and brought in to handle the problem from there.

Examples of minor infractions include, but are not limited to: talking after the teacher has asked the student to stop, distracting other students by talking to them, using a toy or other item to distract others, being distracted and not following instructions after asked to do so the first time.

Examples of major infractions include, but are not limited to: bullying of any kind, physical contact to hurt a person, use of obscene language towards fellow students or teachers, raising the voice towards a student or teacher.

These behaviors are not allowed during traditional class time or during electives or GCH activities outside the school.



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Minor infractions:

Offense #1 Verbal warning from the Instructor or Room Assistant

Offense #2 Verbal warning from the Instructor or Room Assistant

Offense #3 Verbal warning and moved to sit by the Instructor or Room Assistant

Offense #4 Removal from the class and being taken to stay with the Director. In this case, the parent will be notified through an Incident Report completed by the Instructor or Room Assistant.

Offense #5 If steps 1-4 occur more than once within a month, the parent will be asked to withdraw the child from the class for however many days are deemed appropriate by the Teacher and Director.

Major Infractions/Bullying:

Steps 1-3 or 4 may be skipped in the case of a major infraction of the Code of Conduct. A child may be removed from class, without warning, at the discretion of the Instructor or Room Assistant and/or GCA Leadership. A student's parent will always be notified in such cases.

The following are the disciplinary measures that will be taken after a bullying offense:

First time offense: Admonishment and temporary removal from the classroom; referral to meet with the director and parent will be notified immediately, an incident report form will be completed and signed by the student and parent.

Deprivation of privileges- depending on the nature of the offense, students may not be able to continue to participate in all or every activity.

Second time offense: Same consequences as for the first incident and out-of-school suspension (short-term or long-term, depending on the case).

Third time offense: Same as the first time incident consequences and expulsion. No fees will be refunded.

We believe that we do one another a disservice by neglecting to make one another aware of issues that might need to be addressed within our own families.

In these enforcements we are guided by the following Biblical passages and principles:



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- 1) Proverbs 18:17 Cautions us that we need to hear both sides of a story. Everyone involved should have the opportunity to explain themselves and answer questions and charges of wrongdoing because different people have different understandings of what “happened.”
- 2) Matthew 18 teaches us to deal with conflict resolution in an orderly way. Individuals and infractions are dealt with individually so that the harmony of the Body can be restored and maintained. When that is not possible, only one or two other people need to be involved.
- 3) Galatians 6:1 tells us that those who are spiritually mature ought to restore those who do wrong with gentleness and be careful not fall into sin ourselves.
- 4) Deuteronomy 6:5-9 encourages us to teach children how to love God and others as we go about our daily lives. They learn how to have mature relationships by watching us and with our help.
- 5) Passages such as Romans 2:11, Ephesians 6:9, and Deuteronomy 10:11 also forbid any form of favoritism from effecting the way we enforce codes of conduct or discipline. The Lord hates favoritism and so we guard against any accusation about favoritism.
- 6) And finally, we enforce the code of conduct out of love for all our students and families and to help ensure their communal growth and flourishing so that Luke 2:40 might be said of them: “And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.”

Permanent Withdrawal/Expulsion of Students

If a student is permanently withdrawn or expelled for breach of this code there is no discount or refund.

Arbitration

In a case of a dispute, all parties must agree, if there is a difference of opinion an arbiter will be appointed. The arbiter will not have children at GCH or be an instructor there.

Indemnity

A Liability Waiver and Personal Responsibility Acknowledgement Form or a general liability form needs to be signed and witnessed by all parents/ adults representing minors, at the beginning of the school year.

Conclusion

It is our prayer that these guidelines will unify and protect our members. Ensuring that everyone is clear about what is expected and how GCA activities will operate, will hopefully prevent conflict.



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Code of Conduct Signature Page

Agreement

I agree to hold myself and my children responsible to behave according to this Code of Conduct.

Each participating family member (e.g. students and parents) will understand, sign and uphold the Code of Conduct and submit it as soon as possible.

Date: _____

Children: _____

Parents: _____