

Bombay Cambridge Gurukul Schools
Student PEACE Code

Developing excellence in behaviour is an important part of the school's mission and vision. Only in a peaceful school environment, real growth and learning is possible. The Student PEACE Code has been developed with the combined efforts of the Student Council members of the Bombay Cambridge Gurukul schools of 2015-2018.

It is an acronym for **POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENTS**.

The school believes that:

- The school environment provides all the ingredients necessary to practice responsible community citizenship.
- Students learn global skills within the school community, such as tolerance and inclusion.
- Every student has the right to feel safe and respected when in school.
- School life must be a positive experience for all students.
- Every student has the capacity to promote and practice peace towards building a healthy and harmonious society.

The school environment is greatly influenced by student behaviour, and the way students relate with each other. For this reason, we have the important task of developing a student environment where every child feels safe, cared for and respected. Educators will lead and guide all students of the school to create an environment where behaviours that hurt or offend others will be identified and corrected, and that each student will demonstrate care, respect, and support for other students in the school.

Each student must strive to demonstrate by example the high standards of personal and social behaviour that is expected of all students in school. Our school is our second home, and all the people in our environment are part of our extended family. In the school, everybody is learning, and needs the understanding and participation of all in the process.

We solicit the participation and support of all parents, staff and students towards implementing the peace policy to increase the happiness quotient for all those who study and work here.



THE STUDENTS PEACE CODE

POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT

BOMBAY CAMBRIDGE GURUKUL

The Student PEACE Code has been developed to contain all expectations and guidelines for student behaviour in school. The purpose of the document is to create a positive school environment where all students can co-exist peacefully and in harmony, with respect for diversity and an attitude of humanity for all elements in their surroundings.

PEACE = POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT.

*Engagement means how **involved** is each student in maintaining a friendly environment, and whether each student's **contribution** is positive, that is directed to the well being of others.*

*Collaborative environments are where every student helps other students and **works together** with them to build a **school culture of support, care, and friendliness**.*

If each student makes a conscious decision to adhere to the code and contribute to others learning, our school will be a place every student can love and look forward to coming to. The PEACE Code is a guideline for all students on how to manage their behaviour so that it does not cause hurt or offense to anyone, and provides a stress-free environment for all students.

All students of the school are expected to practice the following behaviours that reflect responsible citizenship to the school community:

- 1. Show Empathy:** Empathy involves the ability to understand the perceptions, points of view, interpretations, emotions and needs of different people. Empathy is the capacity in us to know when people are hurting and need understanding and support. For this it is important that you:
 - ➔ Help students who are tense, anxious, and scared to calm down and feel more confident
 - ➔ Listen to other student's problems and offer him/her comfort
 - ➔ Avoid blaming, lecturing, and pressuring anyone
 - ➔ Use words like "I understand", "How would you like me to help you?", "It must be difficult."
 - ➔ Be kind to students in distress and support them through routine activities in school.
 - ➔ Show compassion by listening to others' perspectives and empathizing with their experiences.
- 2. Practice Mindfulness:** Mindfulness is a simple but powerful technique to focus attention, manage emotions, handle stress, and resolve conflicts. This allows you to make wiser decisions in the heat of the moment, rather than only in retrospect – and can provide a much more positive school environment. To develop this, you can:
 - ➔ Slow down your actions and be conscious of what you do or say
 - ➔ Observe how your words and actions impact other people around you
 - ➔ Be in the present and don't worry about the past or future needlessly
 - ➔ Mean what you say – for eg. When you say "Sorry" or "Thank you" let it come from genuine feeling
 - ➔ Be generous - resources in our environment are meant to be shared by all students equally

3. **Resolving Conflict:** Most people tend to handle conflict through fighting or hurting others. Managing conflict is about finding peaceful ways to resolve differences and issues. Good conflict resolution leads to everyone involved feeling understood and ensures relationships stay positive. For this, you can:
 - ➔ Become aware that conflict only leads to damage and hurt
 - ➔ Identify early signs of potential conflict and stop it from escalating
 - ➔ Practice cooperation, problem solving, mediation and negotiation to manage conflict
 - ➔ Do not get carried away or pressured by friends to do things that are offensive or hurtful to others
 - ➔ Learn to respect other people's right to disagree or to be different
 - ➔ Be resilient and handle your emotions in difficult times with a cool mind
 - ➔ Identify instances of discrimination and gender bias in the school environment and work towards extinguishing misconceptions/prejudice and stereotyping
 - ➔ Demonstrate courage by addressing conflicts directly and sharing your feelings and needs honestly.

4. **Build Self Esteem:** Self esteem is how much you value yourself. It is about maintaining dignity, self respect, and self awareness. People with high self esteem tend to be more balanced in life, independent thinkers, and rational in their approach. People with low self esteem tend to measure their worth by material things they possess, other people's opinions, and are prone to compare and be competitive. To build high self esteem:
 - ➔ Be aware of your strengths and challenges
 - ➔ Find the positive in everything that happens to you
 - ➔ Avoid comparison and competition
 - ➔ Put in your best efforts and never give up
 - ➔ Accept the consequences of your own actions without making excuses or blaming others
 - ➔ Believe that there is always a solution even if you can't see it right now
 - ➔ Know that you are unique and there is no one like you

5. **Learn Social Skills:** In a community, there are skills that are essential to healthy and harmonious co-existence. These skills are communication, assertiveness, cooperation, and interpersonal respect. To be a responsible member of the school community, you must:
 - ➔ Be polite and respectful of everyone
 - ➔ Remember, with rights come responsibilities
 - ➔ Know that everyone is equal and deserves to be acknowledged for who they are
 - ➔ Believe each one has the ability to contribute to making the school environment positive
 - ➔ Understand that similarities and differences are what make people interesting
 - ➔ Learn to collaborate, share, and express yourself
 - ➔ Learn to differentiate right from wrong, and choose wisely
 - ➔ Take care of all school-mates as you would your friends and family

While we all have our emotions and tend to react when we experience stress, the school environment can help and support everyone to make healthy choices.

So that each student can feel safe and cared for, students must AVOID the following behaviours in school:

No student may bully another student.

Older or stronger students are expected to take care of younger or weaker students. Behaviour such as using force, aggression or offensive language will not be permitted in the school. Spreading false information (online or off-line), damaging another's property, instigating students against another, excluding someone deliberately, harassing someone, or taking/posting photographs or videos on social media will have serious consequences for the offender.

Students will not engage in fighting in school.

Students are expected to resolve conflicts in peaceful ways. Any kind of fighting, verbal or physical is not acceptable. Causing injury to another person by tripping, pushing, punching or hitting will be considered a serious violation of the Student PEACE Code. Use of foul language, threats or insults, or any behaviour in the act of revenge will have consequences for the offender.

Students will take care of others property.

All resources in school are shared by everyone and each one must take care of them. Any damage to another's property including of the school will be considered as misconduct. Students will ensure they do not tear or spoil other students' belongings, nor take or hide their possessions. Students will respect school property and ensure they do not cause breakage. Writing on school walls or graffiti in any part of the school is discouraged.

Students will practice safe behaviours in school and respect all rules.

Any unsafe behaviour can put others at risk. Students will take care to navigate school spaces safely and follow all instructions. Students will follow the guidelines provided for movement within the school, and other spaces such as terrace, lift, gates etc. Students will read all the rules stated in the Student Diary and ensure they follow them exactly.

Students will observe a personal code of honour.

Students are expected to be honest and practice the values of courage, reason, integrity and sensitivity. Students will NOT cheat during exams, submit work done by someone other than themselves, steal another person's things, engage in any monetary transaction with another student, nor misrepresent others in self preservation.

This school belongs to all of us, and the Student PEACE Code is a promise that each student makes to their school and their fellow-students. We each of us have the goodness and righteousness within us that will ensure that we follow this code in both letter and spirit.

