

LEARNER CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY - INTERSEN PHASE

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Approved by	Head
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Related Policies	The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108/ 1996.)
	The South African Schools' Act (Act 84/1996) and subsequent amendments.
	The National Education Policy Act (Act 27/1996) and any applicable policies determined in terms of this Act, including the Regulations for Admissions to Schools.
Addenda	

Approved by:	Approved by:
Allog .	Oberg
Helyn Tooley	Ursula van den Berg
MJB Properties CC	MJB Properties CC

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1. TITLE: LEARNER CODE OF CONDUCT

2. PREAMBLE

At Thorntree Preparatory we endeavour to promote positive behaviour and interaction between the child, peers and the staff. The Code of Conduct governs the conduct of all children and the relationship between the School and its children. A commitment to excellence in all areas of endeavour forms the basis of the Code of Conduct. Mutual respect and dignified interaction is expected at all times. Individuality and self-initiative are encouraged within the parameters set out below and having regard and respect at all times for the interests of fellow learners and the school.

3. PURPOSE

Disciplined behaviour is essential for the well-being of the school and the successful achievement of the school's objectives. The Code of Conduct is based on:

- 3.1. Educational principles that aim to allow the school to function as a harmonious community;
- 3.2. The want to establish a safe and secure environment;
- 3.3. The need to endorse the basic rights of educators to teach and maintain orderly learning environments and the rights of the learners to learn in a secure, non-threatening environment;
- 3.4. Is aimed at promoting a climate of mutual self-respect, self- discipline and responsible behaviour;

Disciplinary action will be fair, appropriate and consistently applied. It will be aimed, as far as possible, at corrective measures and not punitive action.

4. SCOPE

This policy is applicable to all learners and staff and is to be read by parents, acknowledged and signed by parents and learners alike. All school rules are applicable at all times when the learner is dressed in the official school uniform and is recognizable as such, both within the school grounds, and in public view outside the school.

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5. APPLICATION TO

5.1. Dress Code

- 5.1.1. All students must be dressed in their navy Thorntree shirt and Thorntree pants (or pants that are black or navy allowed only until December 2022). This is applicable to online learning as well.
- 5.1.2. All students must wear a pair of closed, black school shoes no sandals with feet exposed or flip flops with socks will be allowed
- 5.1.3. All students must have a Thorntree cap/hat for break times DAILY NO HAT, NO PLAY
- 5.1.4. Only in winter will students be allowed to put on a school jacket no other jackets will be allowed
- 5.1.5. No hoodies or beanies will be allowed present yourself in a neat and respectful manner
- 5.1.6. Jewellery, girls: no necklaces, bracelets, finger rings will be allowed. Simple hoop or stud earrings and a watch will be acceptable. Should any accessory that a girl wears cause any form of distraction, she will be kindly asked to remove it for the day / not wear it to school. No makeup may be worn to school.
- 5.1.7. Jewellery, boys: boys will only be allowed to wear a watch no other accessories or jewellery will be allowed

5.2. School Hours

- 5.2.1. Children must arrive at school after 07:10 am but before 07:20 am each morning. This is to ensure that the child is received and supervised when he or she arrives, and to ensure that the child arrives before school starts.
- 5.2.2. Parents must arrange for their child/ren in grade 4-7 at 13:30 pm, Monday to Thursday and at 12:20 pm on Fridays. Children are not supervised after school.
- 5.2.3. Please try to avoid bringing children to school late as this is disruptive to the other learners in the class and teacher. Parents bringing children to school consistently on time set a good foundation for responsible actions.
- 5.2.4. Permission to leave school at a time earlier than the end of the school day must be communicated in writing or whatsapp and sought from the teacher well in advance. Unless of course it is sought due to unforeseen circumstances.

5.3. Classroom Conduct

The School expects a concentration on and a commitment to academic excellence. To achieve this end:

- 5.3.1. No disruption of classroom routines will be allowed.
- 5.3.2. The ambience of the classroom must be one of warmth and mutual respect.
- 5.3.3. Homework must be timeously done and handed in.
- 5.3.4. Teachers and visitors must always be courteously greeted both in classrooms and outside.
- 5.3.5. Children must be punctual for all classes and school activities.

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5.3.6. Children must respect the property of fellow learners and that of the teacher and school within and outside of the classroom.

5.4. Safe Use of Technology

Thorntree Preparatory provides for blending learning through the use of technology. Android devices, mini computers as well as iPads are used by learners to afford learners the opportunity to augment their learning in Mathematics and English specifically. They are also used in certain intermediate classes under supervision of the class teacher to do research and find additional information on work that is being done in class. Certain rules apply to the use of these devices:

- 5.4.1. Android devices are the property of the learner.
- 5.4.2. The learner is responsible for the care and safe keeping of their own devices.
- 5.4.3. The school will not take responsibility for devices lost or damaged through misuse, abuse of the device by the learner or other learners.
- 5.4.4. Learners need to show respect for the property of other learners.
- 5.4.5. Learners are not allowed to use another learner's device.
- 5.4.6. The Devices may only be used during class time under the instruction and supervision of the teacher.
- 5.4.7. The IXL Mathematics and IXL English programmes will be loaded and provided by the school as an Application or access through the internet.
- 5.4.8. Wi-fi and internet access is provided by the school.
- 5.4.9. Learners are to ensure that they arrive at school with their devices charged.
- 5.4.10. Ensure that unnecessary uploads and updates do not happen during school time. Parents and learners are responsible for ensuring that this does not happen.
- 5.4.11. Devices may not be used on school property outside of class time, or during breaks or on outings.
- 5.4.12. The learner is expected to use the device for the purpose intended. Any misuse, like accessing sites and applications (Apps) other than the permitted programmes is unacceptable. The device may be confiscated and disciplinary action taken.
- 5.4.13. Inappropriate media may not be used as a screensaver or background photo.
- 5.4.14. Presence of guns, weapons, pornographic materials, inappropriate language, alcohol, drug, gang/hate related symbols or pictures will result in disciplinary actions.
- 5.4.15. Passwords may be used for individual security purposes.
- 5.4.16. Cell phones must be switched off during school hours, including breaks and aftercare. If the student brings a cell phone to school, the student must carry a written consent from the parent, which must provide for an indemnification against loss of or damage to the cell phone.
- 5.4.17. Students may not bring toys, computer games, iPods or similar electronic devices to school unless requested so by the teachers.
- 5.4.18. Parents/guardians should talk to their children about the values and standards that their children should follow on the use of the Internet just as you do on the use of all media information sources such as television, telephones, movies, and radio.

5.5. Health and Safety

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The school is a place of safety where laws pertaining to public places are applicable. You and your peers have a right to be safe and healthy and as such are required to:

- 5.5.1. Use school equipment safely.
- 5.5.2. Move safely both inside and outside classrooms.
- 5.5.3. Walk up and down stairs holding onto the handrails.
- 5.5.4. Use correct entrances and exits.
- 5.5.5. Stay inside the school grounds and play in designated areas.
- 5.5.6. Stay out of the classroom/IT lab/library if a teacher is not there.
- 5.5.7. Wear a hat and sunscreen when playing outside.
- 5.5.8. Pack healthy lunchboxes as guided by the school.
- 5.5.9. Go home immediately if you are not in aftercare or engaged in school activities.
- 5.5.10. Keep our school litter free.
- 5.5.11. Take responsibility for keeping grade toilets neat and tidy. Do not play or eat in the toilets.
- 5.5.12. Chewing of gum is only permitted if identified as part of an intervention strategy by the TLC.
- 5.5.13. If a learner is in position of prescription medication, a copy of the doctor's script and medication is to be handed in and administered by the Secretary or Teacher.
- 5.5.14. No dangerous objects or illegal drugs, as defined in the SA Schools Act or the Safety regulations will be brought onto and/or used on the school property. Dangerous objects include knives, firearms or any item that could harm a person.
- 5.5.15. The carrying and/or smoking of cigarettes / e cigarettes is prohibited.
- 5.5.16. Alcohol is not permitted on school premises.
- 5.5.17. Carrying, copying and/or reading of offensive material is prohibited.

5.6. Safety on School Outings

- 5.6.1.1. School outings form an important of your learning and your safety and behaviour on these are important to us. Remember to:
- 5.6.1.2. Be polite, respectful and friendly at all times.
- 5.6.1.3. Be well behaved.
- 5.6.1.4. Listen to and follow instructions.
- 5.6.1.5. Sit in the bus, buckle up and do not throw anything around in the bus or out the windows.
- 5.6.1.6. Ensure that the bus is clean before you leave after the trip.
- 5.6.1.7. Abide by all rules and instructions stated by your host.

Remember, You are a reflection of your school, your parents and yourself.

5.7. Understanding Our Values

Our school values, what we believe make us better individuals, and which strengthen a child's self-esteem, optimism and commitment to personal fulfilment; and help a child exercise ethical judgment and social responsibility.

Thorntree Preparatory Values are: Acceptance, Respect, Resilience, Responsibility and Excellence.

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5.7.1. Acceptance:

It is: I understand that people have different ideas, beliefs and cultures

It Means: I accept and acknowledge others no matter how similar or different we are.

It Happens when:

- o I cooperate with, encourage and include others
- o I have a positive attitude towards others
- o I accept and understand that everyone is entitled to share their opinions and there will be no put downs
- o I understand the importance of harmony and getting along with others.

5.7.2. Respect:

It is: I treat others the way I like to be treated.

It Means: I care for myself, others and the environment.

It Happens when:

- o I use good manners
- o I listen and speak politely to others and look at the person who is speaking
- o I trust others
- o I give people space
- o I give others a turn
- o I care for everyone
- o I am considerate

5.7.3. Resilience:

It is: I bounce back and don't give up - I have grit

It Means: I make the right choice when dealing with difficult situations

It Happens when:

- o I stay calm
- o I ask for help to solve problems
- o I employ the growth mind set to problem solve
- o I negotiate with people
- o I understand that things don't always go my way
- o I am aware of my emotions and the effect they have on me and others around me
- o I am aware of my thoughts and feelings and things happening around me 'right now".
- o I am confident
- o I learn from my mistakes
- o I don't give up when things are difficult
- o I have a go at something new
- o I am not afraid to be me

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- o I listen to advice
- o I trust myself
- I believe in myself and stand up for what is just and right.

5.7.4. Responsibility

It is: I am trustworthy, reliable and able to make safe and sensible decisions

It Means: I take ownership of my actions

It Happens when:

- o I can be trusted to do the right thing and be a positive role model for others
- o I look after my personal belongings and those that others allow me to use.
- o I have a shared responsibility to after our school and the environment
- o I contribute fairly, honestly and actively as a member of my school and community.

5.7.5. Excellence

It is: I strive to achieve my bets at all times.

It Means: I try to be as good as I can

It Happens when:

- o I try to do my best and I don't give up
- o I use my imagination, experiment and try out new ideas
- o I am curious and ask questions
- o I help others to improve
- o I set goals for myself and work hard to reach them
- o I challenge myself
- o I focus on tasks
- o I organize myself and my belongings
- o I am proud on my achievements

5.8. Absence from school

- 5.8.1. In the event of your child requiring leave from school, please address your request in writing to the teacher. An exit note must be signed at reception by the responsible adult when the child exits the school.
- 5.8.2. If an appointment is scheduled during school hours (which should be avoided) and the child will return, an early exit and return note must be signed at reception by the responsible adult when the child exits and returns to school.
- 5.8.3. Should your child be ill on the morning of school and will not be at school, parents are required to inform the class teacher as soon as possible. A letter from the parent is required upon return to school stating reasons for absence.
- 5.8.4. Should a child be absent from school for a period of 3 days or longer, a doctor's letter is required upon return.

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- 5.8.5. Under no circumstances may a learner leave the school property for whatever reason during school hours without permission from the Head.
- 5.8.6. Should your child be missing a test or exam due to illness, kindly inform, in writing, the class teacher and be aware that the test or exam will be written on the day of return. A supporting letter will be required upon return to school from a doctor.
- 5.8.7. Note that absence from school for the sake of holiday is frowned upon and we request that parents refrain from taking their child out of school for this purpose. Utilise the school year calendar to make holiday arrangements.
- 5.8.8. The onus is on the learner in the intermediate phase to catch up on work that has been missed.
- 5.8.9. Assessment tasks and tests will not be given to learners to take home to complete.
- 5.8.10. No requests will be granted for work to be given in advance is a child is to be absent.
- 5.8.11. Truancy is not allowed.

5.9. Homework

Homework has its place in the educational programme of our children. The purpose and amounts of homework will vary with the child's grade.

Reading is an integral and vital part of a child's learning experience. At all grade levels we recommend children spend time reading at home each day.

- 5.9.1. In grade 4, homework becomes more of a daily routine that may take 30 minutes 40 minutes at home. Project work may involve homework that extends over more than one night. At these grade levels homework is assigned to provide opportunities for the child to practice and creatively apply what has been learned in class.
- 5.9.2. In Grades 5-7, homework takes a greater role in extending learning through practice, application, and manipulation of what has been learned. Homework also serves as a means to promote independent study habits, projects and reports may require work for over a week or more. Parents can help children by helping them manage their time when completing these longer projects.
- 5.9.3. The following are guidelines for the amount of homework at each level:
 - 5.9.3.1. Grade 4: 20 -25 minutes of reading, 30 -40 minutes of homework per night.
 - 5.9.3.2. Grade 5: 20 -30 minutes of reading, 40-50 minutes of homework per night.
 - 5.9.3.3. Grade 6: no more than 60 minutes per night
 - 5.9.3.4. Grade 7: no more than 70 minutes per night
- 5.9.4. The time will differ from assignment to assignment and from child to child. If your child consistently exceeds these time guidelines, please speak to his/her teacher to establish, particularly in the older children, whether it is an issue of time management or whether they are receiving too much homework.
- 5.9.5. In most cases the child should be able to complete an assignment or homework independently. If the child has undue problems (has not grasped concepts behind the homework assignments or takes too much time), please contact the teacher.

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- 5.9.6. One easy way for the parent to address this is to attach a note in the homework book or to the assignment.
- 5.9.7. For the older grades 6 -7, children are encouraged to seek help from the teacher before the date of submission of the homework assignment if assistance is required.
- 5.9.8. When learners miss a lesson, especially grades 4-7, it is the responsibility of the child to catch up on work missed and to complete any homework issued in that lesson. If a new concept was taught in that lesson, the teacher will be available to assist the learner as far as possible.
- 5.9.9. Parents should ensure that children have an environment conducive to completing homework.
- 5.9.10. In the event of homework not completed and not submitted, a note will be sent to the parent in the child's homework book.
- 5.9.11. Parents are required to check homework diaries daily and to acknowledge that they are aware of the homework given.
- 5.9.12. Repeated failure to complete homework (a level 1 infringement) may result in the child having to attend detention on a set day and time.

5.10. Valuables

Children should not bring large amounts of money, computer games or expensive toys to school. Unfortunately the school cannot take responsibility for items that go missing. The loss of any valuable items should immediately be reported to the child's teacher. Thorntree Preparatory, nor teachers or other employees or associates of the school shall be responsible for any loss, damage or theft of private property.

- 5.10.1. Respect other people's property.
- 5.10.2. Do not touch other people's belongings without their permission.
- 5.10.3. Look after your own property.
- 5.10.4. Mark all your possessions.
- 5.10.5. Arrangements should be made with the teacher in charge for safekeeping of money and/or valuables.
- 5.10.6. Cell phones must be switched off during school hours, including breaks and aftercare. If the learner brings a cell phone to school, the learner must carry a written consent from the parent, which must provide for an indemnification against loss of or damage to the cell phone.
- 5.10.7. Learners may not bring toys, computer games, iPods or similar electronic devices to school unless requested so by the teachers.
- 5.10.8. The use of an iPad or Android is required at school during allocated times and in certain lessons. A child is required to take care of their electronic devices and use them responsibly.
- 5.10.9. Wilful damaging, vandalising or neglect of school property and the property of others, either by writing or by physical act, is prohibited.
- 5.10.10. Theft of school and private property is prohibited.
- 5.10.11. Items found or lost should be reported to the class teacher as soon as possible.

5.11. Bullying

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behaviour among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

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Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems. Bullying may be physical, verbal or emotional. It is a behaviour that damages a child's self-esteem, sense of security, hinders academic achievement and may also cause physical harm.

A Thorntree child promises that:

- 5.11.1. She/he will help someone in trouble and that they will not stand by. Even though it may be difficult, he/she will do the right thing. He/she understands that it is about helping someone who is hurting.
- 5.11.2. He/she knows that he/she is not expected to put themselves in danger to help she/he will help, but will do so safely.
- 5.11.3. She/ he will report any incident as soon as possible to an adult.
- 5.11.4. He/she will do SOMETHING and will NOT ignore it. Because bullying is not acceptable behaviour.
- 5.11.5. What can you do if you are bullied?
- 5.11.5.1. Tell/write a note to a teacher or parent as soon as possible.
- 5.11.5.2. Before deleting any offensive pictures or messages, tell and show them to a teacher.
- 5.11.5.3. Don't reply to nasty messages.
- 5.11.5.4. Language that is insulting, discriminatory or racist, which belittles, demeans and humiliates your culture race or religion is prohibited and must be reported immediately to the class teacher.
- 5.11.5.5. Do not tolerate any physical, verbal or emotional abuse of any sort. Report it immediately.

Parents should contact the school as soon as possible if they suspect bullying.

5.12. Behaviour and Discipline

Thorntrees' philosophy of discipline is based on:

- 5.12.1. Respect of the self
- 5.12.1.1. Striving for excellence in every facet of school life
- 5.12.1.2. Being responsible for one's own actions and personal belongings
- 5.12.1.3. Being prepared
- 5.12.1.4. Following school rules and dress codes
- 5.12.2. Respect for others
- 5.12.2.1. Appreciating diversity and human dignity.
- 5.12.2.2. Respecting everyone's right to learn.
- 5.12.2.3. Acknowledging that our choice of words, language and actions affects others.
- 5.12.2.4. Treating others as we would like to be treated.
- 5.12.2.5. Promoting a positive school atmosphere.
- 5.12.2.6. Cooperating with all members of the school as they carry out their duties.
- 5.12.3. Respect for the School
- 5.12.3.1. Taking care of the school property.

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5.12.3.2. Keeping the school clean.5.12.3.3. Following school rules.

5.12.3.4. Being positive ambassadors of the school.

When conflict and unacceptable child behaviour occurs, we prefer to work with the child to create restorative justice. This means that the School and the children involved in the wrongdoing work together to restore justice. This will be done by identifying the harm done to the self, others, or the school; understanding that harm creates obligations; and by focussing on repairing the harm by taking ownership and making amends.

With Primary School children, much of the work of behaviour education and management occurs within the classroom. In the case of repeated unacceptable behaviours, physical aggression, or bullying, the Head of the School will intervene.

Responses to more concerning behaviour will automatically include the parent and consequences. Consequences range from simple detention and loss of play time to suspension from school.

5.13. Guidelines for Disciplinary Consequences & Support

Here are some guidelines on inappropriate learner behaviour and the consequences that may result.

Behaviours	Consequences
Level 1 (minus 1 point each)	
Low level, minor, infrequent behaviours that do	Logical Planned consequences which will include
not disturb others or interrupt teaching and	at least one of the following:
learning of others:	 Entry into discipline log on the D6 system
	 Logical consequences (e.g. attending)
Arrogant / Bad mannered	homework assistance during break,
Blatantly disobedient	changing clothes, cleaning up, etc.)
Forgot books	Break time detention
Eat in the classroom	Parent contact, with a warning of
Use of Cellphone during school hours	detention letter should learner reach
Throwing of objects in class	minus 8 points in total
Homework not done	
Late for school/class	
Dishonest	
Keeps on talking in class Backchat leaders / teachers	
Trying to be funny Riding on chair	
Shouting out	
Playing in classroom	
Spitting	
Bad manners in public	
Bad manners : Opening	
Bad manners : School activities	
Bad manners : Line up	

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Leave suitcase at wrong location

Test not signed Prohibited area

Appearance : Jewelery / Armbands

Appearance : Hair / Nails Appearance : Clothing

Leave class without permission

Disobedient

Throwing of objects
Running on passages
Appearance not correct

Mocking friends
Bad manners

Corrections not done

Littering

Did not complete Math IXL Section to 50 Points

Level 2 (minus 3 points each)

Repeated Level 1 behaviours or behaviours that disrupt teaching and learning, disturb or offend others, or cause physical damage to property.

Copy homework Interrupt lessons Dishonouring Fighting

Damaging school property Leave school without permission

Chronically away from school Letting school down (Sport/Culture)

Swearing or abusive language

Pornography

Dishonesty in general

Planned team support which may involve teachers, counselors, parents, administrators, the Head along with consequences, which will include at least one of the following:

- Entry into discipline log on the D6 system
- Behavior contract / journal or other means of monitoring behavior
- Apology letter/ restitution
- Loss of privileges
- Detention should the child reach a total of minus 15 points
- Parent contact/conference
- 2-day out of school suspension should need be

Level 3 (minus 5 points each)

Repeated Level 2 behaviours or violent, dangerous, or illegal behaviours.

Cheating in tests / exams

Assault

Bully / Mocking friends

Theft Racism

Sexual harrasment

Bully

Threaten other learners

Unaproriate material, literature or behaviour

Vandalism

Planned team support which may include parents, teachers, counselors, advisors and other support agencies as appropriate along with consequences, which will include at least one of the following:

- Entry into discipline log
- Behavior contract or other means of monitoring behavior
- Apology letter/ restitution
- Loss of privileges
- Detention
- Counseling
- Parent contact/conference

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Out of school suspensionExpulsion

Here are some guidelines on positive learner behaviour and the recognition that may result.

Behaviours	Recognition:
Positive 3 points each: Participation Olympiads Participation Expo's Continuous hard work (Academical) Completed Math IXL Section to 80 Points Reporting of negative behaviour of other learners Handed in lost goods/money Honesty Good exemplary conduct Helpfulness Sence of duty Loving behaviour Politeness Self control Show patience Humbleness Peace maker Faithful Participation debates Participation: Sport/Culture Positive 5 points each: Highest in Assessment Shown Improvement in Assessment	Positive points encourage good behaviour and reward positive acts and efforts towards school. Positive points do not cancel out negative points. These ae rewarded at the discretion of the teacher or principal.

- 1. When a student gains -8 points in total, their parents receive a warning letter towards possible detention
- 2. When a student gains -15 points in total, the student will attend detention, parents will receive a letter for detention to be attended
- 3. When a student gains -45 points in total (3 detentions, parents receive a letter for an interview meeting with the school
- 4. When a student gains -60 points in total (4 detentions, parents receive a letter for an interview meeting to discuss suspension)
- 5. When a student gains +15 points, they receive a merit

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- 6. Detention session will be attended on a Friday afternoon 12:30 2:20 PM. The student and parent will be notified a week in advance to ensure that no other appointments overlap the detention session.
- 7. Lying, stealing or vandalising of school, personal or other students belongings will not be tolerated and hence will result in immediate detention. Should the learner admit to their accusation or come forth in honesty, only a demerit will be given.
- 8. Bullying at Thorntree Preparatory is not tolerated and immediate suspension or expulsion will be given with a disciplinary hearing.

The school reserves the right to suspend or expel a learner for repeated or egregious violation of any school policy, rule, or combination of policies and rules.

Parents may appeal any disciplinary action in writing to the Head of the school. If they are not satisfied, then they may appeal in writing to the Board of Directors.

Ours is a relatively simple system of discipline, based on the notion of "respect" which is heavily emphasised in our Code of Conduct. This section outlines the procedures that will be followed by the school when taking disciplinary action:

6. GENERAL

- 8.1. All learners are bound by the Code of Conduct.
- 8.2. Thorntree Preparatory School reserves the right to search learners and their property and to confiscate property if necessary.
- 8.3. Thorntree Preparatory School also reserves the right to discipline any learner for conduct not perpetrated on school premises, but which may reasonably be considered to bring Thorntree Preparatory School into disrepute.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- 8.4. All parents and guardian of learners agree to adhere to the principles enshrined in the Learner Code of Conduct and Parent Code of Conduct included in the admission document.
- 8.5. Thorntree Preparatory School has the right to investigate and resolve any issue pertaining to the conduct of a parent/guardian which may prima facie transgress the Codes and furthermore has the right to impose any reasonable sanction/s which in the sole discretion of the Head of School is appropriate in the circumstances, taking into account all relevant interests, including the right to restrict and exclude access to Thorntree Preparatory School premises or grounds or School events at other venues and to refuse a learner re-entry in the next academic year

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Name of Learner:	
Signature:	
Name of Parent/Parents/Guardian:	
	Signature:
	Signature:
Name of Witness:	
	Signature:

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