

NORWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE

COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL STAFF POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the General Office.

PURPOSE

This policy explains how Norwood Secondary College (NSC) proposes to manage common enquiries from parents and carers.

SCOPE

This policy applies to school staff, and all parents and carers in our community.

POLICY

NSC understands the importance of providing helpful and timely responses to common enquiries from parents and carers. To ensure that members of our school community are directed to the most appropriate person to assist them, the information below outlines key contacts for common queries:

- to report a student absence or lateness, lodge the attendance note via the parent portal on Compass. Alternatively, please contact Deborah Major (Junior School) or Tina Danisch (Senior School) on (03) 9871 0400.
- to report any urgent issues relating to a student on a particular day, please contact the relevant Year Level Coordinator or Head of Year Level.
- to discuss a student's academic progress, health or wellbeing, please contact the relevant classroom teacher.
- for enquiries regarding camps and excursions, please contact the activity's organiser.
- to make a complaint, please contact the General Office on (03) 9871 0400 who will direct you to the relevant staff. Please also refer to our Complaints policy, available: <https://www.norwood.vic.edu.au/policies/>
- to report a potential hazard or incident on the school site, please contact Alex Darsas, Facilities Manager, on (03) 9871 0400 or maintenance@norwood.vic.edu.au.
- for parent payments, please contact Megha Malhotra, the Assistant Business Manager on (03) 9871 0400 or norwood.sc@education.vic.gov.au.
- for all other enquiries, please contact our General Office on (03) 9871 0400.

We will do our best to respond to general queries as soon as possible. The [right to disconnect](#) legislation makes explicit that all employees have the right to refuse to monitor, read, listen to or respond to contact that occurs outside their working hours from their employer or a third party (such as a student or a parent), unless that refusal is unreasonable.

We ask that you allow us 2 – 3 working days to provide you with a detailed response to general queries. We will endeavour to respond to urgent matters within 24 hours where possible.

Please be aware that there may be occasions when staff are on leave or are participating in excursions or camps. During these times, responses to communications may take longer than usual.

Interpreting Services

We can arrange for interpreting support if you are from a language background other than English and need help with understanding important educational information about your child. Contact the General Office for more information.

Requests for information

Parents and carers are generally entitled to information ordinarily provided to parents, including school reports and newsletters.

Parents and carers seeking information that is not ordinarily provided to parents are encouraged to apply for access through the Freedom of Information process, or, if the information is sought for use in court proceedings, by issuing a subpoena.

Freedom of Information requests should be directed to:

Manager – Freedom of Information Unit
Department of Education and Training
2 Treasury Place
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002
03 9637 3134
foi@education.vic.gov.au

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in the staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	November 2024
Consultation	Staff Meeting: 12/11/2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	November 2027