

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Purpose and scope

At Wac Arts, we believe it's important to provide a safe, respectful and inclusive space for all members of our community. We are committed to creating a positive environment for our students and staff that is safe and equal, and where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. All students should strive to achieve their goals and take responsibility for their progress. We want all our students to have a fulfilling and enjoyable time on our programmes. We expect our students to be responsible, respectful and engaged to advance a positive community experience for everyone

This policy applies to all students aged 4 – 30, however the following provisions apply:

- Where a student is under the age of 18, Wac Arts will always involve the parents, guardians and carers in discussions, actions and consequences relating to any breaches of this code of conduct.
- Wac Arts will treat over 18 as adult's when applying this code of conduct and parents, guardians and carers will not be involved in discussions, actions and consequences relating to any breaches of the code of conduct.
- For students who are over the age of 18 and enrolled on our Inclusion programmes, Wac Arts will use enrollment information regarding guardianship to ascertain if parents, guardians and carers should be involved in discussions, actions and consequences relating to any breaches of this code of conduct.

2. Our expectations of our students:

- Treat all Wac Arts staff, fellow students and other members of our community with respect
- Demonstrate a positive attitude and commitment towards the programme
- Practice and promote equality
- Behave responsibly and safely at all times
- Attend classes regularly and on time
- Dress appropriately for all classes
- Switch off mobile phones and any other communicating devices when in a class
- Dispose of litter responsibly using the bins provided
- Take care of Wac Arts equipment, resources, facilities and buildings

3. Behavior that will not be tolerated

- Language
 - Swearing, or using offensive/ derogatory language
 - Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications
 - Intimidating, threatening or shouting at members of staff, trustees, parents, guardians and carers or other students.
 - Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about Wac Arts, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms or sending such to the media
- Behavior
 - Any aggressive behavior towards another student, adult or staff member*
 - Damaging or destroying Wac Arts property
 - Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, Wac Arts operations (including events, sharing's and performances)*

- Smoking or drinking alcohol on Wac Arts premises
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)

- Communication
 - Threatening to do or inflicting actual bodily harm to another student, member of Wac Arts staff or Board, visitor, guardian, carer or parent, regardless of whether or not the behavior constitutes a criminal offence*
 - Recording of meetings or telephone calls without the explicit prior permission of all involved
 - Making serial, unreasonable or vexatious complaints

4. Breaching the code of conduct

If Wac Arts suspects, or becomes aware, a student has or may have breached the code of conduct, Wac Arts will gather information from those involved, speak to the student, parent, guardian or carer about the incident and seek witness statements as it deems necessary to investigate and resolve the matter.

Depending on the nature of the incident, Wac Arts may then:

- Send a warning letter to the student, parent, guardian or carer
- Invite the student, parent, guardian or carer into Wac Arts to meet with a senior member of staff, ending a meeting if this behavior is displayed
- Not reply to communications that are offensive, abusive or derogatory
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behavior)
- Seek advice from its legal advisers regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libelous or slanderous)
- Ban the student from the Wac Arts site**

Wac Arts will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision for how Wac Arts responds to breaches of this code of conduct rests with the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive will report significant breaches of this code of conduct to the Board.

**Where behavior may be exhibited because of a disability, Wac Arts will always endeavor to work with the student, parent, guardian or carer to amicably resolve the situation and provide additional support if possible.*

*** Wac Arts will evaluate the risk to other members of the Wac Arts Community and will only utilise this sanction in the event that the risk to others is too high to allow the student to continue on the programme.*