**CEDARWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT**

Mature, self-controlled behavior is expected of all students and staff in order to promote an orderly atmosphere for learning and growing.  This includes respect for God, self, family, country, school and church staff, students, and other people.  Our Code of Conduct includes the following policies:

**DRESS CODE** - Modesty, moderation, and wholesomeness are basic principles that honor the Lord.  In presenting ourselves to others, general appearance, clothing, and personal hygiene should promote Godly principles, avoiding extreme distractions, respecting the God-given distinction between male and female.  Clothing and appearance should be coordinated to accent a person’s character and personality, without causing someone else to stumble (Rom 14:13). Clothing must be modest:

* Clothing should be neither too tight that body contours are emphasized, nor too loose that safety or distraction are considerations.
* Sheer or see-through clothing is not permitted.
* No spaghetti strap tops.  No tank tops which allow bra straps to show, tube tops, halter tops, muscle shirts.
* No clothing that shows cleavage.
* No clothing with offensive pictures or slogans.
* No tops or low rise pants/shorts that allow the midriff to be seen.
* Leggings may only be worn with a tunic style/long top that covers the rear and sufficiently in the front.
* No shorts, skirts, or pants with any kind of writing across the rear.
* No clothing with high slits.
* No clothing that is torn that exposes skin.
* Any shorts, skirts or dresses must be no shorter than two inches above the kneecap.
* No parts of underwear may be showing at any time.

If you aren’t sure something is appropriate to wear, please don’t wear it.  If an article of clothing is questioned as to its appropriateness, the student will be referred to leadership to make a determination. Failure to abide by the dress code will result in disciplinary action.  A student may be sent home to change (sweats may be available at the school to cover the inappropriate articles of clothing).  Continued nonconformity may result in a suspension. Let’s honor one another and not cause our brother or sister to stumble.

**PHYSICAL CONTACT-** Wholesome physical contact is encouraged and permitted. Appropriate contact in games and gym activities are acceptable.  Wholesome boy/girl relationships are encouraged, but personal and intimate physical affection is not permitted at school or its functions. Outward expressions of students in a relationship will not be tolerated. That means no holding of hands-- other than that which is necessary for a planned activity, no lingering hugs, no kissing, no leaving the group without the activity leader’s permission. You are not to put yourself in situations where you are alone with a member of the opposite sex. Inappropriate behavior will be addressed.

Aggressive physical contact will not be tolerated and the behavior will be addressed. This includes hitting, punching, pushing, fighting and the like.

**PROHIBITED ITEMS** -Illicit drugs, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, and any other illegal/harmful substances are strictly prohibited.  For bodily safety, knives, guns, rifles, explosives, and other dangerous equipment are not permitted without strict adult supervision.  Students may not carry such items to school.  For spiritual purity, items such as games, pictures, books, tapes/CDs, magazines, and websites that promote anti-Christian philosophies and immorality, or lead to occultist or immoral involvement, are not permitted.

**LANGUAGE AND GOSSIP -** Lying, cursing, profanity, and verbal assaults on others will not be tolerated (Matthew 15:11).  Do not vent/gossip to others or let things fester relationally.  That would be unbiblical and damaging. Instead, go to the person(s) immediately and, courageously and gracefully, deal with it head on (but privately – Matt 18:15).  Display humility, grace, and patience in response and tone when confronted and/or challenged by anyone (even if wrongly challenged).  If there is a stalemate, bring it to leadership.  It is inevitable that there will be disagreement with co-workers and leadership.  However, it must be without being disagreeable.   We must all be united as one team, in Christ.  To do otherwise risks bringing division within The Body.

**CELL PHONE USE** - There will be no use of cell phones or other electronic devices during class time, unless related to class material and with teacher approval.

**VANDALISM AND THEFT**- Vandalism (deliberate destruction) and theft are forms of rebellion.  All should respect the property of the church and school. Any destroyed property will be paid for or replaced by the student and the family.

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR** - Encouragement and edifying speech, attitudes, and behavior are to be cultivated. Let us strive to build others up, knowing that we who teach will be judged more strictly (Ephesians 4:29, James 3:1). Teachers are to exhibit Godly character as they teach the students -  no bad language, no harsh words, no drawing attention to a student’s inadequacies, remembering that children will learn how to treat others by the way they are treated.

Students should be courteous and polite and are to obey the teacher and school staff. Encourage them to be early, have all the supplies and materials needed each day, and focus on the teacher or task at hand.  Students should raise their hands and wait their turn to talk and not interrupt the teachers or others.  Rebellion, deliberate disobedience, chronic complaining, arguing with the teacher and other students, refusal to follow directions or to do schoolwork, cheating and other things, all reflect a lack of submission to authority and are not acceptable. Teachers are obligated to discipline students accordingly (see Discipline Policy).

Parents should give the benefit of the doubt to the school staff when their child complains.  Conclusions should be held back until getting the information needed, especially by consulting with the teacher or school staff.