


#	POLICY TITLE	POLICY AREA:	VERSION:	DATE ADOPTED:
	7.2 LEARNER CODE OF CONDUCT	7) SUPPORT FOR LEARNERS	4.0	JULY 2020

Introduction and Context

The College aims to provide a safe and welcoming environment for its staff and learners. Staff members are committed to the creation of a respectful and collegiate learning environment, which will underpin the professional formation of SNMCI learners. In order to achieve this, it is vital for both staff and learners to work collaboratively through the application of a shared standard of conduct. This document outlines that standard of conduct in terms of the College's learners.

- The purpose of this document is to set down the code of conduct expected of the College's learners and to highlight what is considered misconduct under this code.
- The College Learner Code of Conduct applies to all persons, other than staff, undertaking a programme of study or otherwise in attendance on the College's premises.
- This Learner Code of Conduct comes into force when an offer of a place in the College is accepted and remains in force whilst learners are attending the College or taking part in any of its associated events.

Policy: (Applicable in both physical and virtual spaces)

- All learners are expected to be considerate of the needs of fellow learners, staff and any authorised visitors to the College.
- All learners are expected to refrain from any conduct which is intended or is likely to disrupt teaching, learning, study, research, ceremonies, recreational activities, meetings, examinations, administration or other activities undertaken by or within the College or organised as part of its approved activities.
- All learners are expected to respect the property and resources of the College and not to use it for unapproved purposes.
- All learners are expected to attend classes as appropriate to their programme of study and actively participate in the learning process.
- The Learner Code of Conduct will be included in the Learner Handbook and on SNMCI's virtual learning environment, Moodle.
- The Learner Code of Conduct is equally applicable to learners when they are off-campus, for example on school placement, field trip or representing SNMCI in any setting.
- The College is entitled to alter this Learner Code of Conduct from time to time through the Academic Board. Learners will be advised of such changes within 7 days of approval.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct:

The College sees breaches of the Code of Conduct as improper interference with the proper functioning or activities of the College, or those

who work or study in the College, or action which otherwise damages the College or its reputation. The following are examples. This list is not exhaustive:

- Breach of 'netiquette guidelines';
- Conduct in the lecture room, which is likely to distract from the creation and maintenance of a positive learning environment;
- Conduct online (zoom classes, online fora) which is likely to distract from the creation and maintenance of a positive learning environment;
- Disruption of, or improper interference with, the academic, administrative, social or other activities of the College;
- Obstruction of, or improper interference with, the functions, duties or activities of any learner, member of staff or any authorised visitor of the College;
- Violent, indecent, disorderly, threatening or offensive behaviour or language;
- Fraud, deceit, deception or dishonesty in relation to the College or its staff or in connection with holding any office in the College or in relation to being a learner of the College;
- Action likely to cause injury or impair safety on College premises;
- Sexual or racial harassment of any learner, member of staff or other employee of the College or any authorised visitor to the College, or any behaviour of a hostile or intimidating nature aimed at individuals or groups of people;
- Examination offences which do not constitute academic irregularities;
- Damage to, or defacement of, College property or the property of other members of the College community caused intentionally or recklessly, or misappropriation of such property;
- Misuse or unauthorised use of College premises or items of property, including computer / network misuse;
- Conduct which constitutes a criminal offence where that conduct:
 - takes place on College premises, school placement or representing SNMCI in any setting, or
 - affects or concerns other members of the College community, or
 - damages the good name of the College, or
 - itself constitutes misconduct within the terms of this code, or
 - is an offence of dishonesty, where the learner holds an office of responsibility in the College
- Behaviour which brings the College into disrepute
- Failure to comply with proper directions given by an officer or employee of the College
- Failure to comply with a previously imposed penalty under this Learner Code of Conduct.

**A Learner who is suspected of breaching the Learner Code of Conduct may be subject to the College's Disciplinary Policy and Procedures.
(QA 7.9)**

Policy Control Sheet

Policy	QA : 7.2 Learner Code of Conduct
Version	4.0
Adopted/Effective	July 2020
Supersedes	3.0
Monitoring/ Next Review Date	Every Two Years /July 2022
Responsible Officer(s) Designated Reviewer(s)	Students; Student Engagement Officer; Director of Quality and Academic Affairs
Scope	College wide

References

SNMCI Policy area	7) Support for Learners: QA Vol 2
Developed with reference to	<p>QQI (2016) <i>Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines</i></p> <p>QQI (2016) <i>Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines developed for Independent/Private Providers coming to QQI on a Voluntary Basis</i></p> <p><i>Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)</i>, May 2015</p> <p>National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP)</p>
Related SNMCI Policies / Forms	QA 7.1: Student Engagement; QA 7.3 Student Charter; QA 7.4 : Fulfilling the Learner Charter/Roles and Responsibilities

Revision

Revision Number	Revision Description	Originator	Approved By
3.0/07/2020	General Review for blended learning	Office of DQAA	AB