



Student Code of Conduct

As Jesus tells us to Love God and Love Others in Matthew 22:34-40, HCF Youth's expectations for student behavior follow the general principle of love and respect.

In general, students are in compliance with HCF Youth's code of conduct if they respect their leaders, respect each other, and respect HCF facilities.

Respecting Adult Leaders

Students are to obey any instructions given by HCF Youth adult leaders during any gatherings or events. Much of these are directly related to respecting others and respecting HCF facilities, but many are also related to overall safety:

- Staying within physical boundaries of the gathering. Students shall not leave the supervisory presence of adult leaders without permission.

During a Wednesday night gathering, outdoor space is limited to the sidewalk area between the northeast gym door and the playground barrier, unless invited by an adult leader to another area for a group activity/meeting.

During a Wednesday night gathering, indoor space is limited to the youth room, gym, and kitchen areas. No student shall pass a closed interior door without express permission from an adult leader.

- Staying for the entire gathering time.

Wednesday night gatherings end at 7:30pm for Middle School and 8:15pm for High School. If a student must leave before the end, an adult leader must be notified, and that adult leader must have spoken with the parent/guardian of the student either in person or over the phone prior to the student being released early.

Students may not leave and come back, even for a short period of time, even if walking a short distance. Once they are on HCF premises, students are considered under HCF supervision for the remainder of the gathering time.

- Attending small groups.

If a student refuses to attend their small group, they must remain next to an adult leader during that allotted time.

Respecting Each Other

Students are to respect the image of God ingrained in every human being, including themselves (Genesis 1:27). Many issues of respect are a matter of discipleship and growing in our obedience to Jesus, though some issues have more immediate effects and consequences. The following behaviors are prohibited at HCF Youth:

- fighting
- bullying
- threats of violence or harm to others
- engaging in pornography
- engaging in illegal activity
- profanity

Respecting our leaders and respecting each other includes committing to the overall purpose of HCF Youth gatherings: to Meet Jesus and Repeat Jesus. Therefore, certain behaviors that distract from this purpose are prohibited:

Small Groups:

Students engaging in small group times will treat each other with love and respect. Things shared by students in small group conversation must remain private to that group, unless an adult leader deems it necessary to report something to the Student Pastor. Students will actively listen to and encourage one another, not speaking over someone else who is talking and not spreading gossip.

Dress Code:

In order to keep our focus on Meeting Jesus and Repeating Jesus, students attending HCF Youth are expected to dress appropriately. At the discretion of the adult leaders, if a student's attire is offensive, revealing, or otherwise distracting (see below), the student may be asked to change or cover up. This issue will only be addressed by an adult of the same gender as the student, ideally the one who knows the student best, such as their small group leader.

- For any water-related activities where swimwear is necessary, all females are expected to wear a modest one-piece suit. Males are expected to wear swim trunks (no speedos).
- Off-site events may be held at venues with separate dress code policies. In such cases, those policies will be communicated in advance and enforced for the duration of the event.

As a general reference of appropriate dress in our community, see the following from BCISD's dress code:

- *Dresses, skirts, all split garments, and shorts must be long enough to maintain dignity while sitting, bending and/or standing. Shorts, skirts, dresses, and skirts must be hemmed and at mid-thigh length as measured with relaxed shoulders in both the front and back.*
- *Pants, shorts and skirts must be worn at the natural waist of the student.*
- *Leggings may be worn as long as the outer wear (shirt, dress, skirt) reach mid-thigh length as measured with relaxed shoulders in both the front and back.*
- *The following are prohibited:*

Any form of exposure of undergarments.

Tank tops, tops with low-cut necklines, or tops with low-cut arm openings as determined by school administration or designee.

Clothing that exposes bare midriffs.

Clothing containing obscene or offensive language or symbols, provocative pictures, advertising of tobacco, alcohol or narcotics on clothing, jewelry, or exposed body parts.

Clothing containing racially related symbols, emblems, pictures, words, or slogans.

Excessively loose or baggy clothing is considered a safety hazard and is not permitted.

Excessively tight clothing, see-through clothing, or provocative clothing.

Public Display of Affection:

We recognize that genuine feelings of affection may exist between two students. However, in the pursuit of all students Meeting Jesus and Repeating Jesus, students shall refrain from all Public Displays of Affection (PDA) while attending HCF Youth or participating in an off-site event.

HCF Youth gatherings and events are by nature public. Being overly affectionate in public is distracting and can be offensive. The expression of feelings toward one another is a personal concern between the two individuals and thus should not be shared with others in the general vicinity. PDA includes any physical contact between students that may make others in close proximity uncomfortable or serves as a distraction for themselves as well as those around them. Some specific examples of PDA include but are not limited to: kissing, holding hands, sharing seats, sitting on someone's lap, excessive hugging, back rubbing, etc.

Respecting HCF Facilities

While attending HCF Youth gatherings and events, students are expected to extend proper care for the facilities of Hill Country Fellowship. This includes but is not limited to students:

- throwing away their trash,
- using sporting/gaming equipment only for its proper intended use,
- refraining from horseplay or roughhousing,
- only coming onstage or to the tech booth when invited to by an authorized person, and
- keeping food and drinks out of the gym.

Intervention- 3 R's

In the event that a student fails to abide by the above code of conduct, adult leaders for HCF Youth are trained to implement the 3 R's for discipline:

1. Request

- a. The adult leader who witnessed or was made aware of the misconduct will approach the student and clearly explain the misbehavior, followed by a clear request for the misbehavior to stop.
- b. Certain safety-related or illegal misbehavior (fighting, threats, bullying, damage to property, etc.) could result in the immediate removal of the student, see section 3.b.

2. Reseat

- a. If the misbehavior continues, the adult leader will then approach the student again, clearly explaining how their continued behavior is out of line. The student will then be asked to move to sit or remain next to an adult leader.
- b. Upon being reseated, the adult responsible for this disciplinary action will then make the Student Pastor aware of misbehavior and the actions taken as soon as possible.

3. Refer or Remove

- a. If the misbehavior still continues, a phone conversation between the Student Pastor and the parent/guardian will be pursued by the Student Pastor within 24 hours.
- b. If the misbehavior still continues (or is serious enough to begin with) and it threatens the safety of anyone present (including the student him/herself), the adult leader will immediately accompany the student outside of the gathering space to remain until a parent or guardian can pick them up to go home. The adult leader will make the Student Pastor aware of the misbehavior and the actions taken as soon as possible. A phone conversation between the Student Pastor and parent/guardian will be pursued by the Student Pastor within 24 hours of the removal of the student.
 - i. Certain safety-related or illegal misbehavior (fighting, threats, bullying, damage to property, etc.) can merit a required 3-week break from attendance of any HCF Youth gatherings or events, as determined by the Student Pastor and HCF leadership.