



## THE HUTCHINS SCHOOL

# Commitment to Kindness

### WHAT YOU DO MATTERS

The word 'kindness' is derived from the notion of kinship; from the idea that people of the same family or clan are bonded together by natural affection and mutual goodwill. With the advent of Christianity, this idea was turned into a positive commandment that people should love one another.

Our commitment to kindness comes from a desire to treat others as we would have them treat us (Matthew 7:12). An attitude of goodwill to all people, not seeking self-gratification, but seeking to build up others is at the heart of kindness and of love. We see this best modelled by Jesus in John 13:34: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so also you must love one another."

**Every member of The Hutchins School community has a collective responsibility to be kind to every other member, and to all members of the public.**

### Responsibilities

All members of The Hutchins School community are responsible for:

- setting an example of kindness in the way they speak and act and in their attitude of goodwill to all members of the community;
- actively promoting kind words and deeds among the community;
- sealing with unkindness (which is especially applicable to senior or stronger students when protecting junior or vulnerable students); and
- reporting any unkindness that they are unable to correct. Students are expected to report unkindness to a member of staff or senior student.

Members of the School community benefit from the positive examples put before them and by extending good will throughout the community.

**Intervention** will be necessary when the unkindness of some makes life difficult or distasteful for others. Cases of severe unkindness must be reported to the highest school authority.

**Counselling** can involve both the initiators of unkindness and the victims of it and can be undertaken individually or in groups by all members of staff and leading students. Professional counselling is also available from the School Counsellor/s and qualified psychologists.

**Follow up** is necessary by those in authority to ensure that initiators have learned from the process and that reprisals do not occur.

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