

FOREST TOWN SCHOOL

ESTABLISHED 1948

For Learners with Special Needs

LEARNER CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY



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1. TITLE OF THE POLICY:

The Learner Code of Conduct Policy of Forest Town School

2. EFFECTIVE DATE:

1 May 2025

3. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:

30 April 2026

4. REVISION HISTORY

Issue	Description of Amendment	Approved	Date
No.		by	
1	Major updates to existing policy		
2	Minor updates	SGB	November 2019
3	POPI Update	SGB	November 2020
4	Policy Update	SGB	May 2021
5	Update of Dress Code	SGB	January 2022
6	Policy Update	SGB	April 2022
7	Policy Review	SGB	May 2023
	 New section 10 – Principles 		
	 Material additions to section 11 – 		
	Rules and Regulations		
8	Policy Review – minor changes	SGB	April 2024
9	Policy Review – minor changes	SGB	April 2025

5. PREAMBLE

The Governing Body of Forest Town School has adopted this Learner Code of Conduct after consultation with all stakeholders of the school.

The school is committed to education of a progressively high quality for all learners and, in doing so, to lay a strong foundation for the development of all learners' talents and capabilities. The school is further committed to uphold the rights of all learners, parents and staff and to promote their acceptance of and commitment to their various responsibilities.

This Code of Conduct promotes a culture of reconciliation, teaching, learning, therapy and mutual respect and the establishment of a culture of tolerance and peace in our school.



6. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The policy aims to inform learners, and their parents, of the way in which to conduct themselves at school in preparation for their conduct in civil society. It further aims to inform parents/guardians of the conduct expected of their children and to foster their cooperation in providing a disciplined learning and teaching environment.

In promotion of this aim, further objectives of the policy are:

The objectives of this policy are:

- a. It will set a standard of moral behaviour for learners and equip them with the expertise, knowledge and skills they would be expected to evince as worthy and responsible citizens.
- b. To promote positive discipline, self-discipline and exemplary conduct, as learners learn by observation and experience.
- c. To promote support from learners and parents to the Principal and members of staff in establishing and maintaining good order and contributing towards creating a positive and calm environment in which the process of teaching and learning can take place.
- d. To put in place a culture of discipline in which parents/guardians, learners and educators are aware of the rules and regulations and will jointly accept responsibility for the application and execution of the Code.

7. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy applies to all Educators, Therapists, Parents/guardians and enrolled learners at Forest Town School.

8. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

8.1. DEFINITIONS

No.	Term	Definition
1.	Code	Means the code of conduct of this school
2.	Prosecutor	Means the principal of the school or an educator
		appointed by the principal to present the case
		against a learner;
3.	Representative	Means a parent of a learner, co-learner or any
		other person chosen by the learner to represent
		the learner at a disciplinary hearing
4.	Suspension	Means:
		 a. A learner may not be entitled to attend a
		class at the school;
		b. A learner may not be entitled to hold office
		or perform any duties and functions
		contemplated by any relevant law relating



		to school governance for the period of suspension. c. A learner may not be entitled to participate in extra-curricular activities at the school; or d. A learner may not be able to attend school for a period of time that is laid down in legislation
5.	"the Act"	Means the South African Schools Act, Act No.84
		of 1996 as amended
6.	"the School"	Refers to Forest Town School
7.	learner	Any person registered to or applying to receive
		education at the school
8.	Staff	Any person who is employed at the school,
		including temporary appointments.
9.	Parents	 a) The biological parent(s) or guardian(s) of a learner; or b) The person legally entitled to custody of a learner; or The person who undertakes to fulfil the obligations, of a person referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b), towards the learner's education at school

8.2. ACRONYMS

No.	Acronyms	Explanation
8	AGM	Annual General Meeting of parents
5	CAPS	Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement
7	DBE	Department of Basic Education
6	GDE	Gauteng Department of Education
3	HOD	Head of a particular section of the school and
		includes academic, modified and therapy
		departments
4	LSEN	Learners from Special Education Needs Schools
1	SBST	School Based Support Team
2	SGB	School Governing Body

9. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

This policy was compiled in accordance with the following legislation:

9.1. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996), as amended.



- 9.2. South African Schools Act, 1996 (No. 84 of 1996), as amended.
- 9.3. National Guideline on School Uniform.
- 9.4. National Guidelines on Code of Conduct of Learners.
- 9.5. National Education Policy Act (No. 27 of 1996).
- 9.6. Gauteng Education Act (No. 6 of 1995), as amended.
- 9.7. The Protection of Personal Information Act, No 4 of 2013.
- 9.8. Policy on Learner Attendance (Notice 361 of 2010).
- 9.9. South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport Act [No. 14 of 1997].

10. LEARNER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

10.1. Parents and guardians play a vital role in educating their children regarding their rights and responsibilities.

10.2. RIGHTS

All learners have the right:

- a. To privacy;
- b. To dignity and respect;
- c. To a clean and safe environment;
- d. No learner may be subjected to physical, emotional or sexual harassment;
- e. To approach any member of staff on any matter;
- f. No corporal punishment may be administered;
- g. To a clean and safe learning environment;
- h. To be free of victimization by other learners and/or members of staff;
- i. To expect educators to teach them at the required standard and to meet their special educational needs to the very best of their ability;
- To be free of discrimination based on race, religion, gender and nationality;
 and
- k. To learn without any distraction by other learners.

10.3. RESPONSIBILITIES

All learners have to:

- a. Show mutual respect and tolerance for one another;
- b. Strive to do their best in the learning process;
- c. Attend all lessons unless excused for a specific reason;
- d. Refrain from any conduct which may physically harm any other learner or staff members:
- e. Show consideration for others in what they say or do; and
- f. Ensure that their actions do not distract other learners from the task set for them.
- g. Show respect to staff members.



11. RULES AND REGULATIONS

11.1. School Rules

- a. Learners must walk in an orderly manner in the school passages.
- b. Running and shouting is discouraged.
- c. Fooling around and/or touching other learners are not allowed.
- d. During assembly learners are expected to be quiet.
- e. In assembly classes enter and leave the hall in their class lines.
- f. Learners are encouraged to greet visitors and may shake hands with visitors and introduce themselves where appropriate.
- g. Learners may not hug any visitor, other parents, teaching and therapy students, etc.
- h. No learner may leave the school grounds unaccompanied.

11.2. Classroom Rules

- Learners must always be polite and respectful towards their co-learners and staff.
- b. Every educator/therapist is responsible for discipline at all times at the school and at school related activities. Educators/Therapists have full authority and responsibility to correct the behaviour of learners whenever such correction is necessary at the school. Serious misconduct must be referred to the Principal, Deputies or HoD of the school.
- c. Within the classroom, each learner must do his/her best to maintain order and contribute toward completing work as well as possible.
- d. Learners are to keep their classroom tidy by placing all papers in the dustbin before leaving the classroom.
- e. Desks and chairs must be left in neat rows.
- f. Writing or scratching on furniture is prohibited.
- g. No learner may be outside a classroom during teaching time without permission of the relevant educator, i.e. toilet, pills, etc.
- h. Each classroom has a set of classroom rules that apply to the learners.
- i. The class rules are explained, discussed and reinforced with the learners on a continual basis.
- j. The class rules are on display in each class and presented in a way that is meaningful to the learners. For example, use is made of visuals such as photographs/picture symbols, etc.
- k. Class rules may differ from class to class depending on the age of the learners and may include the following:
 - i. Foul/inappropriate language may not be used.
 - ii. Teasing / name calling of others is not allowed.
 - iii. Aggressive/physical behaviour towards others is not permitted.
 - iv. Learners may not take their peers belongings.
 - v. Learners need to ask permission to leave the class.



- vi. Inappropriate laughing/ shouting is discouraged.
- vii. Learners are taught to be quiet when visitors enter the class.

11.3. Playground Rules

- a. Staff members are on duty in each of the playgrounds at any given time.
- b. The following rules are applied and enforced in the playgrounds:
 - i. As protection against the sun, all learners may be required to wear hats. Learners who do not have a hat are made to sit indoors or in the shade. There may be some exceptions, based on good reason, and teachers will be made aware of this.
 - ii. Eating is not allowed on the playground for safety reasons.
 - iii. Any inappropriate behaviour is discouraged. This includes teasing, name calling, inappropriate shouting and screaming, inappropriate or rough games and touching or hanging onto one another.
 - iv. Learners may not play with stones, sticks or any other object that may be dangerous.
 - v. Learners may not sit on top of the garden furniture (tables or backs of the benches), nor may they stand on the benches.
 - vi. Standing on the swings or pushing one another on the swings is not allowed. A learner may be permitted to push another learner on a swing under the supervision of a person on duty.
 - vii. Due to safety measures, specific rules apply to the use of the trampoline and other outdoor equipment and these rules are strictly enforced. These include one learner on the trampoline at a time, removing shoes, etc.
 - viii. Holding hands/ kissing is discouraged at school.
 - ix. The playground entrances/ exits are locked at playtime and learners are required to ask for permission to leave the playground when needing to go to the bathroom.

11.4. Learning and School work

- Learners must commit themselves to do their schoolwork during classes, complete assigned homework and catch up on work missed because of absence.
- b. Disruption of the school is unacceptable.

11.5. Dress Code

- a. General
 - The school uniform must be adhered to. This is determined by the SGB.
 - ii. **No** blazer, only navy-blue anoraks.



- iii. **No** jewellery except Medic alert bracelets, wristwatch, and "sleeper" earrings (silver or gold) for girls only. **One per ear, no reeds.**
- iv. No fancy headgear.
- v. **No** coloured tights.
- vi. **No** sports or running shoes. (Any special footwear to be discussed with the therapists).
- vii. No colouring of hair is allowed.
- viii. **Boys** hair must be neat and short no touching of the shirt collar. Fringes may not touch the eyes.
- ix. **Girls** Long hair is to be tied up with white or navy-blue ribbons/bands or baubles. Fringes may not touch the eyes.
- x. All clothing, as well as shoes, must be clearly marked with the child's name.
- xi. No necklaces or thin neck chains will be allowed except for religious reasons. Please supply a letter to prove.
- xii. No nail polish on fingers nails or toes nails.
- xiii. Boys and girls during a normal school day, at an official school event and/or when wearing the official school uniform, no visible tattoos are allowed. Learners will be expected to cover any such tattoos.

b. Boys - Summer School Uniform

Trousers	Grey shorts or long trousers
Shirt	White short-sleeved shirts
Jersey	Plain Grey jersey
Shoes	Black lace-up school shoes
Socks	Long grey socks.

c. Boys - Winter School Uniform

Version: 9

Trousers	Grey long trousers
Shirt	White long-sleeved shirts
Jersey/Jacket	Plain Grey jersey.
	Plain Navy-blue anorak is optional.
Shoes	Black lace-up school shoes
Socks	Long grey socks.
Tie	Compulsory for Grade 4 upwards
Thermal vests	May be worn in very cold weather

OR



Track-suit	Plain blue
Shirt	White long-sleeved shirts
Shoes	Black lace-up school shoes
Socks	Long grey socks.
Tie	Compulsory for Grade 4 upwards
Gloves and scarf	Plain grey/navy gloves and scarf
Thermal vests	May be worn in very cold weather

d. Girls – Summer School Uniform

Skirt	Grey skirt (not higher than 5cm above the
	knee)
Shirt	White short-sleeved blouse
Jersey	Plain Grey jersey
Shoes	Black bar and buckle shoes/lace-up shoes
Socks	Short white socks

e. Girls – Winter School Uniform

Skirt	Grey skirt (not higher than 5cm above the
	knee)
Shirt	White long-sleeved blouse
Jersey/Jacket	Plain Grey jersey.
	Plain Navy-blue anorak is optional.
Shoes	Black lace-up school shoes
Socks	Long grey socks.
Tie	Compulsory for Grade 4 upwards
Thermal vests	May be worn in very cold weather

OR

Track-suit	Plain blue
Shirt	White long-sleeved shirts
Shoes	Black lace-up school shoes
Socks	Long grey socks.
Tie	Compulsory for Grade 4 upwards
Thermal vests	May be worn in very cold weather
Gloves and scarf	Plain grey/navy gloves and scarf



f. Boys and Girls – Physical Education

i. All garments should be plain.

ii.

Trouser	Black shorts/long
Shirt	White T-shirt or long-sleeved shirt
Shoes	Comfortable trainers/tekkies
Socks	White socks.
Hat	Blue school sun hat
Track-suit	Plain blue

g. Deviation from School Dress Code

- i. Deviation from dress code rules in 11.5 (a) to (h) will only be permitted by the SGB or the written authority of the Principal in exceptional circumstances.
- ii. Parents/ guardians who require that their children deviate from the Dress Code must make a submission to the SGB in writing, clearly setting out their objection to the dress code. The submission must clearly outline the reason for the objection, whether the objection is for religious, cultural or other reasons.
- iii. The SGB will consider the submission and will, within 14 days, give a written reply to the parents.

11.6. Leaving school during school hours

- a. The parent should write a message in the child's message book informing the teacher that the child will be picked up from school during school hours by the parent or by another person.
- b. If this is not done the child will not be allowed to leave the school premises unless the parent collects the child.
- c. If the above is not done and the child is not fetched by the parent, the parent will be contacted to verify the request to take the child out of school.
- d. The child should be signed out in the signing-out register at reception.

11.7. Injury/Illness during school hours

- a. If a learner is injured or becomes ill during school hours, the matter must be reported to the school nurse or a designated person immediately.
- b. A child will be sent home immediately if he/she arrives at school and is ill.
- c. No learner should have direct contact with another person's blood. In case of an injury or nosebleed learners are requested to ask for help from a staff member.
- d. It is the duty of the parents/guardians to see that they are contactable at all times. Contact details must be updated regularly for the benefit of the child.



e. Should a learner need urgent medical attention from a doctor or needs to be taken to hospital and the parents are not contactable, the school will choose the doctor or the hospital as the case may be and take the child there. The cost of treatment for the child will be borne by the parents/guardian of the child.

11.8. Medication

Refer the school's Medication Management policy

11.9. School Property

- a. Learner are not allowed to be in the classrooms, in the hall during break, or in other designated areas without the supervision of an educator.
- b. Each learner shares the responsibility to keep classrooms, bathrooms, corridors and grounds neat and clean.
- c. Learners are taught to respect and take care of school property. It is felt that learners may not be held liable or responsible, however parents are requested to assist the school with the following:
 - Any school property or equipment made available to a learner should be returned to school in the same condition as which it was when it was handed out excepting for fair wear and tear.
 - Where school property has been wilfully/ negligently damaged or destroyed, parents will be requested to compensate for the loss or damage.
- d. Vandalism is a serious offence. Learners who transgress this rule will be dealt with strictly.
- e. The parents/guardians are liable for any costs incurred should damage to school property, staff property or co-learner's property be done by their child.
- f. Should the learner not pay, the incident will be referred to the SMT.
- g. No littering will be tolerated.

11.10. The property of staff, fellow learners and visitors

- a. No learner may touch, handle, use, damage, hide or take another learner's property without permission
- b. No learner may borrow or use another learner's belongings without permission. Every learner must have his/her own stationery.
- c. Vandalism of any kind, or tampering with someone else's property, is a serious offence.
- d. Learners may not bully, threaten, physically or verbally abuse other learners, or act in an irresponsible or harmful manner toward other learners. Such behaviour is regarded as a serious offence, and any damage or injury



- occurring as a result of such behaviour will be claimed from the offender. Racist remarks will not be tolerated.
- e. Should another child's property be damaged, it must be replaced by the parents of the child who damaged it.

11.11. Punctuality

- a. School hours for staff are strictly from **07:30 to 13:40** and there will only be supervision from **07:30**.
- It is the parents/guardian's duty to ensure that his/her child is at school on time every day and that he/she will be collected after school every day timeously.
- c. When arriving at school learners must proceed to early morning designated playgrounds, where supervision will be provided from **07:30 to 07:40**.
- d. Learners must line up at their respective blocks when the first bell rings. Their class educator will then take them to their class.
- e. Learners are to be fetched at **13:40** sharp at the end of each day. The parents are accountable and responsible for their children after **13:40**.
- f. The school will not be liable should anything happen to the learner after school hours.

11.12. Attendance

Refer to the school's Learner Attendance policy.

11.13. Communication with staff

- a. Any calls will only be put through to staff during break and after school, i.e. 10:15 to 10:30, 12:30 to 12:45 and from 13:40 onwards.
- b. In the case of an emergency, please speak to the HOD or admin staff.
- c. Please use the message book to communicate with your child's class teacher.

11.14. Valuables and personal belongings

- Learners should not bring any expensive items like toys, radios, CD
 players, sports equipment, I-Pods, I-Pads or tablets to school. The school
 does not take responsibility should the item go missing.
- b. No item that can be used as a weapon is allowed to be brought to school. This is a very serious offence and will be treated as such.
- c. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that none of the above items are brought to school. Please check your child's school bag from time to time to make sure that none of the above items are brought to school.

11.15. Behaviour and language

a. Bullying and disruptive behaviour are not allowed at the school.



- b. No fighting, kicking, biting, spitting, hair pulling or looting is allowed on the school premises or at official school functions that are not on the school premises.
- c. Swearing and the use of foul language is not allowed at the school.

11.16. Cell Phones

- a) Learners are not allowed to bring their cell phones to school.
- b) If a learner does bring his/her cell phone to school, it must be handed in at the office for safekeeping and can be collected at the end of the school day.
- c) If a cell phone is found on a learner:
 - i. The teacher must confiscate such phone and hand it in at the office for safekeeping.
 - ii. The office will record the details of the learner in a cell phone register and lock the phone in the safe.
 - iii. Parents can collect confiscated phones from the office at the end of the school week.
- d) If learners do bring their cell phones to school, they are responsible for the safekeeping of their cell phones; the school will not accept any responsibility if a cell phone is lost or stolen.

11.17. Smoking and illegal substances

- The carrying and use of cigarettes and tobacco, including pipes, ecigarettes and hubbly products, are not allowed on the school premises.
- b. Alcohol and the use of alcohol products during school hours or during any school activity are strictly prohibited. Any learner suspected to be under the influence of any alcohol will be removed from the school premises.
- c. The carrying and/or consumption of illegal chemical substances and drugs are strictly prohibited.

11.18. Prohibited Areas

- a. Learners must note that the following areas of the school are out of bounds before and after school, and during breaks.
 - Classrooms (except under supervision of a staff members)
 - Therapy departments
 - Library
 - Computer room
 - Swimming pool area
 - Behind the hall, in the hall.



- Learners may not be in any unusual place or climb into or onto any place without the permission and presence of a staff member.
- The different class or grade groups must be in the correct playground areas before school and during breaks.
- Ball games may only take place in designated areas.
- Learners are not allowed to be in passages or corridors during lesson times except when sent on an errand.
- b. Children are not allowed to loiter or congregate in the corridors before and after school and during break.
- c. Children will gather in the hall when it rains.

11.19. Public display of affection

- a) Acceptable behaviour:
 - i. It is acceptable to demonstrate care for each other in physical expressions such as friendly hugs or pats on the back or shoulders.
 - ii. All such contact should be open and inclusive within a social group to be acceptable.
- b) Unacceptable behaviour:
 - i. Intimate physical expressions of affection such as, but not limited to, hugging, holding hands, kissing, prolonged embracing and touching of a sexual nature are not permitted at school, on any school activity (including the night out, nature camps, field trips, out of school events and competitions) and/or in any situation where the school can be identified, e.g. when dressed in school clothes outside of school hours.
 - ii. Lying down with another learner.
 - iii. Hand on another learner's lap.
 - iv. Sitting on another learner's lap.
 - v. Touching in sexual ways either under or through clothing is not acceptable.

11.20. Bullying

At the School we aim to establish a school community in which everybody feels valued and safe, and where individual differences are appreciated, understood and accepted. Bullying in any form, including cyber bullying, is totally prohibited at the School.

a) Rights and responsibilities

It is the right and responsibility of every learner and educator to report bullying, whether it happens to you or to someone else. If one learner is bullied, it is everyone's business to put an end to it!!



Rights Responsibilities

To feel safe To respect yourself To learn and grow To respect others

To be respected To be the best person you can be

To be valued To support others

To be different
To show compassion and understanding

b) Investigating and Reporting

- (i) Report any bullying, self or other learners, to an educator, SBST team member or a RCL member.
- (ii) Do not participate in the bullying.
- (iii) Don't give the person who bullies an audience walk away, show and express your disappointment in people who bully.
- (iv) When an incident of bullying or suspected bullying is reported, the school will respond in a manner that is appropriate to the incident. The following steps will usually be taken depending on the nature of the incident:
 - All investigations and reports will be treated in the strictest confidence.
 - A suitable member of staff will try to obtain as much relevant information as possible on the bully/bullies and the target(s). The bully/bullies and the target(s) will be interviewed separately in order to hear each one's side of the story.
 - Educators must make notes of the time and place of the incident and the parties involved.
 - A suitable member of the staff will then meet with the target/victim
 to establish what has been taking place, to ensure that the target
 understands and is comfortable with the action that the school will
 take in dealing with the matter and to ensure that the target will
 not be placed at further risk
 - The victim's / target's parents/guardians will be contacted and informed of the situation and kept appraised of the school's actions and approach. If it is felt that the victim/target is in need of further support this will be arranged in conjunction with his/her parents/guardians and the school's support team.
 - A suitable member of staff will then meet with the perpetrator of the bullying incident to hear his/her side of the story, and to ensure that the bullying behaviour stops immediately. If there is negative comeback from the perpetrator to the victim/target following this, the perpetrator's parents/guardians will be called in. If it is felt that the perpetrator needs some form of support it will be arranged in conjunction with his/her, parents/guardians and the school's support team.



- In the event of the stories of the target and the perpetrator being at odds, investigating staff will usually either bring both boys/girls into an interview together for mediation or will investigate further by interviewing other learners who have witnessed the incidents.
- Interviews should be recorded in writing.
- If the perpetrator repeats his/her behaviour, the school will be obliged to take more stringent steps to curb the bullying behaviour. In the event of repeated bullying behaviour that is felt to endanger one or more or the learners in the school, the perpetrator may be asked to leave the school.
- If a disciplinary hearing is required, the disciplinary committee will conduct the hearing according to the procedures as set out in the school's code of conduct.
- In incidents involving cyberbullying, whether these occur on or off the school property, the school reserves the right to take the same action as for other incidents of bullying behaviour.
- c) Role of parents and guardians
 - (i) Watch for signs of unhappiness in the child's behaviour.
 - (ii) Be supportive when an incident of cyberbullying is reported as this can be extremely damaging and have lasting effects.
 - (iii) Inform the class teacher, grade tutor or member of the support team if there is any suspicion that your child is being bullied.
 - (iv) Do not take matters into your own hands in confronting the perpetrator or his/her parents.
 - (v) Refrain from telling your child to retaliate.
 - (vi) Help your child to learn positive behaviours that will help him/her not to become a target/victim.
 - (vii) Clearly address the situation if it is found that your child has bullied another child/ peer.

11.21. Dangerous weapons/objects

- a) The school is a dangerous weapon/object-free zone.
- b) Learners are not allowed to bring any dangerous weapon or object onto the school grounds or official school events.
- c) If the school suspects that a learner is carrying a dangerous weapon/object, such learner and his/her belongings will be searched.
- d) Any dangerous weapons/objects found will be confiscated and handed to SAPS.



11.22. Behaviour at extramural activities and events

Learners, both participants and spectators, at sport and other school activities, are encouraged and expected to:

- Dress appropriately at all times as per the guidelines given by the school.
- b) Conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all organised school events.
- c) Adhere to all reasonable instructions given to them before, during and after the activity by the Principal, any educator/therapist/ teaching assistant, parent, and/or any person appointed by the Principal to assist at any event.
- d) Parents are requested to please excuse their child should they be unable to participate in/or attend an event.

11.23. General Rules and Etiquette

- a. Respect must be shown at all times
- b. Learners must be polite and friendly at all times, and act with the proper respect toward administrative staff, general assistants, visitors and colearners.
- c. Individual educator's rules must be respected at all times.
- d. No form of misbehaviour by learners will be tolerated at school.
- e. Learners may only be in the foyer of the administrative offices if they wish to speak to the administrative staff or have an appointment with the principal.
- f. The gardens, plants and trees on the school grounds may not be damaged. Learners may not walk or run through flowerbeds.
- g. Learners may not touch or tamper with educators' or visitors' cars. No learners are allowed in the parking area unless fetched by parents/guardians or taxis. Graffiti of any kind is strictly forbidden.

12. DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

12.1 Introduction

- Discipline must be maintained in the school and the classroom to ensure that the education of learners proceeds without disruptive behaviour and offences.
- b) The disciplinary process must be expeditious, fair, just, corrective, consistent and educative.
- c) Where possible the parent should be informed and involved in the correction of the learner's behaviour.
- d) At no stage will a learner be subjected to a disciplinary hearing without the presence of his/her parents/guardians. The parents/guardians may appoint another person to represent them at such hearings and inform the school accordingly prior to such hearing.
- e) Restraint is the act of controlling the actions of learners when such actions may inflict harm to others or to the learner or violate the rights of other



- learners or educators. Educators may use reasonable measures where necessary to prevent a learner from harming him/herself or others.
- f) Every educator is responsible for discipline at all times at the school and at school related activities. Educators have full authority and responsibility to correct the behaviour of learners whenever such correction is necessary at the school. Serious misconduct must be referred to the principal of the school.
- g) Any corrective measures or disciplinary action must be commensurate with the offence/infraction.

12.2 Categories of Transgression

- a. Transgressions (see Annexure A) by learners are divided into three categories which are coupled to specific disciplinary measures, i.e.
 - Grade 1: Less serious offences
 - Grade 2: Serious offences
 - Grade 3 and 4: Extremely serious offences
- b. Transgressions in Grade 1 and 2, will be dealt with by the educators and Management of the school, while transgressions in Grade 3 and 4 will be dealt with by disciplinary committee appointed by the SGB depending upon the severity of the transgression.
- c. As far as it is practically possible, all disciplinary action (see Annexure A) will be noted or communicated in writing to the learner or his/her parents/quardians.
- d. In the case of severe conduct disorder, an interview will be arranged immediately with the parents/guardians of the relevant learner.

12.3 Punishment

- a. Punishment is a corrective measure, or a penalty inflicted on an offender who has to suffer the consequences of misconduct in order to maintain the orderly society of the school. Refer Annexure A for corrective action
- b. Corporal punishment shall not be administered.
- c. Educators must resolve disciplinary problems which are not serious enough to be referred to the Principal.
- 12.4 Prevention, Pro-Active Advice, Counselling, Penalties and Corrective Measures
 - a. In case of minor offences, corrective measures may be applied. These measures could include one or more of the following:
 - i. Verbal warning or written reprimand by an educator or a principal;
 - Supervised schoolwork that will contribute to the learner's progress at school, the improvement of the school environment, provided that the parents are timeously informed, and the security of the child is assured;



- iii. Performing tasks that would assist the offended person;
- iv. Agreed affordable compensation;
- v. Noting the offence in the learners' personal file;
- vi. Telephonic contact with the parents/guardians of the learner;
- vii. Informing the parents/guardians in writing of the offence;
- viii. Detention;
- ix. Requesting parents/guardians to fetch the learner at school;
- x. Replacement of damaged property; and
- xi. Suspension from some school activities, e.g. sport, cultural activities.
- b. The class educator keeps a record of the offences specified below, on the form prescribed for this purpose.
- c. After three offences the parents/guardians of the learner concerned will be called to meet the principal. The next infringement will result in a detention. The learner's parents/guardians will be informed of the detention.

12.5 Disciplinary Documents

In applying the disciplinary process, the school will utilise the following documentation:

- a. Verbal warnings: the relevant teacher will do a note to be placed on the learner's profile, reflecting the following information:
 - i. Name of learner
 - ii. Date of offence
 - iii. Details of offence
 - iv. Corrective action taken
- b. Written warnings:
 - i. Written warning see Annexure B
 - ii. Final Written Warning see Annexure C
- c. Disciplinary Hearings:
 - i. Notice of Disciplinary Hearing see Annexure D
 - ii. Record of Disciplinary Hearing see Annexure E
 - iii. Review Form see Annexure F
 - iv. Suspension from school see Annexure G
 - v. Rights of Learners facing disciplinary action see Annexure H
 - vi. Expulsion from school see Annexure I

12.6 Disciplinary Committee for serious misconduct

- a. Composition
 - i. SGB member (Chairperson)
 - ii. 2 x SGB members
 - iii. Principal



- b. If the decision of the disciplinary committee is suspension or expulsion, the following process must be followed:
 - Suspension will only be enforced after the learner, or his/her parents, has been granted a reasonable opportunity to make representation.
 - The SGB must conduct the disciplinary proceedings against a learner within seven school days after the suspension of such learner.
 - iii. If disciplinary proceedings are not conducted within seven school days after the suspension of a learner, the SGB must obtain the approval of the Head of Department for the continuation of the suspension of such learner.
 - iv. If a learner is found guilty of serious misconduct, the SGB may:
 - (a) Impose the suspension of such learner for a period not longer than seven school days or any other sanction contemplated in the Code of Conduct of the school; or
 - (b) Make a recommendation to the Head of Department to expel such learner from the Public school.
 - v. The Governing Body may suspend or extend the suspension of a learner for a period not longer than fourteen days pending the decision by the Head of Department whether or not to expel such learner from the school.
 - vi. The Head of Department must consider the recommendation by the Governing Body referred to above and must decide whether or not to expel a learner within fourteen days of receiving such recommendation.
 - vii. A learner at a school may be expelled only:
 - (a) By the Head of Department; and
 - (b) If found guilty of serious misconduct after disciplinary proceedings have been conducted.
 - viii. The learner or the parent of a learner who has been expelled from the school may appeal against the decision of the Head of Department to the Member of the Executive Council within fourteen days of receiving the notice of expulsion.

12.7 Expulsion

- a) As a rule, the school will not consider expulsion of a learner as sanction for serious offences.
- b) If all sanction and behaviour modification have been exhausted, and the learner continues with his/her misconduct, the school will explore one or all of the following options:



- Consider transferring the learner to another LSEN facility that may be equipped to manage the specific learner more effectively. This needs to be discussed with the DBST and consent must be obtained from the parents.
- ii. Consider a permanent personal assistant for the learner. Such assistant will supervise the learner permanently during the school day. This has to be discussed with the parents as they will have to bear the cost of such assistant.
- iii. Recommend home-schooling to the parent if at all possible. Such process will involve the following:
 - 1) The learner is still enrolled at the school;
 - 2) The school will determine the learning activities and provide work for the learner.
 - 3) The parents will have to employ a teaching assistant

12.8 Counselling

- a. Counselling a learner who has committed a transgression is extremely important. The person counselling, the type of counselling and the extent or duration of counselling will depend on the transgression and the age and disability of the learner involved.
- b. Minor infringements of classroom or office rules should involve the class teacher/therapist and the learner preferably on a one-to-one basis after school or during breaks where the teacher/therapist explains to the learner why the behaviour is unacceptable, the consequences of such behaviour and assists the learner to change the unacceptable behaviour pattern. During this counselling session, should the learner confide in the teacher/therapist, reasons which could account for such behaviour, e.g. parents going through a divorce, the teacher/therapist needs:
 - i. To take these factors into account when meeting out discipline;
 - ii. Treat the information supplied by the learner in confidence; and
 - iii. Refer the matter to the principal, deputy principal, social worker or psychologist depending on the information supplied.
- c. For continued transgressions of minor infringements, the teacher/therapist should approach the relevant H.O.D. and then follow the school's line function.
- d. For more serious offences counselling should take place through the social worker of psychologist and involve the parents. Other professionals outside the school may be called in to assist provided permission is obtained from the parents/guardians.
- e. All counselling sessions should aim at the rehabilitation of the learner, i.e. to change unacceptable behaviour patterns. Such counselling however does



- not take the place of due process of law, i.e. the punishment fitting the behaviour will still take place.
- f. The school establishes a Learner Support Team comprised of competently trained staff so that learners can seek help without fear of punishment or expulsion. (See the section headed "Policy with regard to the management and Prevention of Drug Use/Abuse" in the Safety and Security Policy).

13. MERIT SYSTEM

- 13.1. A learner is awarded merits for positive behaviour, academic progress and assistance rendered at sports, cultural events or of any other nature.
- 13.2. One merit can be given at the teacher's discretion, after a week's observation for:
 - creativity
 - kindness to others
 - helpfulness
 - initiative
 - honesty
 - perseverance
 - good manners
 - consideration for others
 - co-operation
 - good sportsmanship
 - assisting the educator in class
 - cleaning classrooms regularly
 - keeping the playground tidy by picking up litter
 - good behaviour on the playground
 - neat handwriting
 - good communication skills
 - achievement in schoolwork, tests and examination
 - additional work complete
 - diligence in homework
 - completing work thoroughly and immediately
 - achievement at sport or cultural activities
- 13.3. Two merits can be given after a term for:
 - 100% class attendance
 - Correct school uniform worn
 - Regular intake of prescribed medication
 - Wearing hats during outdoor activities
 - Good progress in schoolwork/therapy
 - Lining up properly
 - Compliance of therapy rules



- Compliance of individual class rules
- 13.4. Merits will be recorded on the "Achievements" page in the learner's homework diary.
- 13.5. At the educator's discretion, learners will be praised during assembly for their positive behaviour, assistance rendered and/or achievement in schoolwork or sport by giving house-points.
- 13.6. At the educator's discretion, sustained positive behaviour will be rewarded through merit badges, which will be handed out during assembly.
 - a. after achieving 6 merits a learner will receive a green merit badge
 - b. after achieving 12 merits a learner will receive a blue merit badge
 - c. after achieving 18 merits a learner will receive an orange merit badge
 - d. after achieving 24 merits a learner will receive a yellow merit badge
 - e. after achieving 30 merits a learner will receive a white merit badge
- 13.7. Green, blue, orange and yellow merit badges have to be handed back to the school and will be traded in for higher level badges. Once the learner has achieved the white badge, he/she is allowed to keep the badge. The process will then start anew.
- 13.8. Exceptional and prolonged positive behaviour can be rewarded through prizes, trophies or monetary rewards.
- 13.9. A learner will have to hand his/her obtained merit badge back should he/she engage in Category two and Category Three transgressions.



14. APPROVAL

Recommended by: (Principal)		Signature:		
Date:				
Approved by: (SGB Chairperson)		Signature:		
Date:		I	l	
Approved by IDSO/Circuit Manager	Name & Surname: Signature:			-
Approved by	Date:			
District Director	Name & Surname:			-
	Date:			



ANNEXURE A: OFFENCES AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

GRADE 1 OFFENCES		RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE SANCTIONS		
1.	Academic: Books/work materials left at home; homework not done on time.	Corrective actions/sanctions are carried out by the individual teacher or therapist and may		
3.	Personal conduct in classroom/on playground; inappropriate displays of affection between learners; late arrival for class; uncooperative behaviour; discourteous behaviour/insolence/temper tantrums; foul language; defacing tables/walls/books/cases with graffiti; eating/chewing in class; littering and playing with a cell phone during class. Dress code: Untidiness/unkempt appearance; school dress code not followed.	 include the following: Demerits Verbal reprimand Written punishment (not for Gr. 1) Washing Therapy equipment Picking up litter Detention at breaks Contact parents Temporary confiscation until the end of the week or school term (e.g. uniform, jewellery, cell phone, bags and cases) Removing graffiti from bags and cases at break. Written or telephonic notification to parents. 		
	GRADE 2 OFFENCES	RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE SANCTIONS		
1.	Plagiarism of any work or cheating/attempted cheating in class test/assignment.	Naught for test, HOD to call parents and issue warning letter.		
2.	Damage to property (including hearing aids, wheelchairs or any other assistive device)/possession of other learner's property.	Repair/replacement, warning letter and Dep. Principal's detention.		
3.	Defiance/disregarding of an authority figure's instructions. Severe temper tantrums and insolence.	Warning letter, HOD detention followed by Deputy Principals detention if necessary. Daily Report. SBST if necessary.		
4.	Detention – non-attendance.	Making up missed detention, extending detention (eg 1 day to 1 week), and warning letter.		



	GRADE 2 OFFENCES	RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE SANCTIONS
5.	Disruptive/uncooperative behaviour in class	Warning letter by therapist or teacher and detention by teacher /Therapist. If necessary, followed by a detention by HOD and then Deputy. Daily Report.
6.	Repeated dress code infringements (including hair and personal grooming)	After 3 warnings – Deputy Principal's detention. (depending on the social circumstances of the learner)
7.	Fighting	Warning letter and detention. Depending on the severity of the fight, parents need to be called in by HOD.
8.	Forgery, e.g. parent/guardian's signature	Warning letter, Parents called in by HOD and detention. Daily Report if necessary.
9.	Graffiti – books, cases, desks, walls etc.	Removal – warning letter and Deputy Principal's detention.
10.	Late for school	After 3 times, call parents
11.	Lying	Warning letter and detention
12.	Offensive material ie explicit pictures.	Warning letter and detention. If necessary HOD to call parents in.
13.	Smoking on school property	1 st offence – special detention with Principal and letter to parents 2 nd offence – community service
		3 rd offence – formal disciplinary hearing and professional counselling.



	GRADE 2 OFFENCES	RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE SANCTIONS
14.	Spitting	Demerits, Teacher/ Therapist sends note to parents. 1st offence – teacher / therapist detention.
		2nd offence –HOD's detention and parents called. Cleaning area with cloth and water.
15.	Sticking a sharp object e.g. pin, pen, nib, etc. into a fellow learner / teacher.	Warning letter and Deputy Principal detention. If need be, a Principals detention. Involve 'Adopt a cop'
16.	Threatening assault/intimidation of a fellow learner	Phone call to parents by Deputy, warning letter and Deputy Principal's detention. Involve 'adopt a cop'
17.	Vandalism – defacing/damaging school property,	Phone call to parents by Deputy, repairs/payment of damage. Warning letter and Deputy Principal's detention.
18.	Verbal abuse of a fellow learner.	Warning letter and detention by teacher / therapist, followed by HOD if necessary.
	GRADE 3 OFFENCES	RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE SANCTIONS
1.	Alcohol – possession at school or on a school outing. Smelling of liquor/under the influence at school or on a School outing.	Parents called in, suspension, disciplinary hearing, community service in accordance with the programme
2.	Assault on a fellow learner (causing bodily harm)	Parents called in by HOD, suspension from class and school. Disciplinary hearing, warning letter, community service.
3.	Bullying /intimidation	Parents called in by HOD, warning letter, community service and detention
4.	Cheating / attempted cheating in test.	Parents called in by HOD, get naught and warning letter.
5.	Ongoing disruptive behaviour in classroom (frustrating School's educational programme)	Depending on the severity and frequency – Daily report, suspension from class/ therapy /school. Disciplinary hearing, warning letter, community service. SBST if necessary



	GRADE 3 OFFENCES	RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE SANCTIONS
6.	Engaging in a conspiracy to disrupt the proper functioning of the school through collective action.	Depending on the severity – daily report, suspension from class/school. Disciplinary hearing, warning letter. Involvement of Adopt a cop if required.
7.	Drugs – consumption not associated with medical condition.	Interview with parents, professional intervention.
8.	Gangs – promoting formation forming of /associating with/ furthering activities of School gangs/social groups.	Suspension from school. Disciplinary hearing. Warning letter. Detention, Interview with 'Adopt a cop'
9.	Pornography – bringing to school and distribution at school.	Warning letter, Parent interview, community service, detention. Depending on the severity of the material, suspension followed by a disciplinary hearing.
10.	Public indecency	Disciplinary hearing, warning letter, community service.
11.	Racist conduct that defames a learner/teacher	Suspension from class/school. Disciplinary hearing, warning letter, community service and counselling, detention.
12.	Improper suggestions of a sexual nature.	Disciplinary hearing, warning letter, community service and counselling, detention.
	Sexual harassment of a teacher/learner	Suspension from school. Disciplinary hearing. Expulsion if found guilty. Counselling recommended.
14.	Threatening to assault/intimidating a teacher	Suspension from school. Disciplinary hearing. Expulsion if found guilty. Daily report when learner returns to school.
15.	Verbal abuse of a teacher. (e.g. Swearing)	Suspension from school. Disciplinary hearing, warning letter, community service, detention. Daily report when learner returns to school.



	GRADE 4 OFFENCES	RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE SANCTIONS
1.	Alcohol – drinking/drunk at school or on	Suspension from school, disciplinary hearing.
	School outing.	Possible expulsion. Community service.
2.	Assault on learner causing serious bodily	Suspension from school, disciplinary hearing
	harm	and possible expulsion.
3.	Assault on a teacher	Suspension from school, disciplinary hearing
		and possible expulsion. Possible court case.
4.	Dangerous weapon or object, e.g. knife	Appropriate punishment e.g. community
	possession at school	service and counselling. Depending on the
		severity and or frequency, suspension from
		school followed by disciplinary hearing and
		possible expulsion.
5.	Dangerous weapon or object e.g. firearm	Suspension from school, disciplinary hearing,
	 possession at school or on a school 	expulsion.
	outing.	
6.	Satanic practices that damage property	Suspension from school. Disciplinary hearing,
	or cause harm to people or any living	possible expulsion. Professional counselling.
	creatures	Appropriate community service (i.e. with
		animals).
7.	Sexual assault – rape	Suspension from school. Disciplinary hearing
		and expulsion. Counselling and police
		involvement.
8.	Theft/dishonest conduct to the prejudice	Disciplinary hearing, possible expulsion.
	of another person.	Replacement of stolen articles, warning letter,
		community service and counselling.
9.	Trading in test/examination material for	Parent involvement by Principal. Warning
	personal financial gain	letter, community service and counselling.
		Suspension from school, disciplinary hearing
		and possible expulsion.
10.	Vandalism – malicious damage to	Disciplinary hearing, possible expulsion, repair
	School/teachers property	damage, replace item if necessary, warning
		letter. Counselling.



ANNEXURE B - WRITTEN WARNING

FUREST TUV	VIN SCHOOL	
Written Warning		FOREST TOWN SCHOOL 1577ALISHED 1948 For Learners with Special Need
Name of learner: Learner ID number: Subject: Teacher:		
The above learner has breached the disciplinary		
Date of offence:		
Grade of offence:		
Nature of offence:		
Learner's statement:		
Learner	Teacher	
Witness	HOD	
Date		
One (1) copy to learner, original to be kept on	learner profile.	
	•	

- Learner's signature does not signify admission of guilt, but that charges and action taken have been explained.
- This information must be protected in line with the Protection of Personal Information Act.



ANNEXURE C – FINAL WRITTEN WARNING

FOREST TOWN SCHOOL

Final Written Warning	l	FOREST TOWN SCHOOL ISTABLISHED 1944 For Learners with Special Needs
Name of learner:		
Learner ID number:		
Subject:		
Teacher:		
Please take note that this is a final warning. If the	disciplinary code is b	reached again, in any
way, it will lead to a disciplinary hearing.		
Date of offence:		
Dates of previous warnings:		
Grade of offence:		
Nature of offence:		
Learner's statement:		
Learner	Teacher	
Witness	HOD	
	-	
Date		
 One (1) copy to learner, original to be kept on le 	arner profile	
 Learner's signature does not signify admission of 	·	es and action taken
have been explained.		
This information must be protected in line with	the Protection of Pe	rsonal Information
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Act.



ANNEXURE D - NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY HEARING

FOREST TOWN SCHOOL

Notice of Disciplinary Hearing	FOREST TOWN SCHOOL 15 TABLISHED 1941 For Learners with Special Needs
Name of learner:	
Learner ID number:	
Subject:	
Teacher:	
A formal disciplinary hearing will be held and you are obliged to be prese	ent:
Date of hearing:	
Venue of hearing:	
Time of hearing:	
Date served:	
The charge against you is as follows:	
Date of offence:	
Nature of offence:	
Suspension from class	
You are further advised that you have been suspended from class from:	
Time: Date:/ until Time: Date:	//
During your period of suspension, you will not be permitted on the School	ol premises unless
written permission has been given to you by a senior member of manage	ement, or for attending
this hearing.	
 Note: Learner receives one (1) copy and the original copy kept on learn 	ner profile. This
information must be protected in line with the Protection of Personal Inf	ormation Act.



ANNEXURE E - RECORD OF DISCIPLINARY HEARING

FOREST TOWN SCHOOL



		Anst			
Record of Disciplinary Hearing			FOREST TOWN SCHOOL		
			For Learners with Special Need		
		Present			
Capacity	Name	Designation	Section		
Complainant (if app	olicable):	Learner:			
Witnesses for con	nplainant	Witnesses for learn	Witnesses for learner		
1.		1.			
2.		2.			
3.		3.			
This information is to	he protected in line w	vith the Protection of Person	e Protection of Personal Information Act.		
		harge, date, place and brief			
incident/s)	•		•		
Nature of offence:					
Plea: The learner ad	lmits/denies the charg	es (the appropriate plea to b	pe underlined).		
Learner		Teacher			
Witness		HOD			

Date



ANNEXURE F – REVIEW FORM (lodging an appeal)



FOREST TOWN SCHOOL

Review Form (Lodging an Appeal)

In terms of the School's disciplinary procedures, I wish to lodge an appeal against the decision of the Disciplinary Committee (within five (5) School days).

Name of Appellant:	
The appeal is made on the following grounds (the app	ropriate areas to be marked with an X).
The disciplinary measure imposed was not in	in line with the grade of offence.
Disciplinary procedures were not followed.	
New or further evidence or witnesses are available affect the result of the previous hearing.	ailable, which could bring new facts to light and
Nature of offence:	
The following reasons are submitted in support of	this appeal:
Date appeal lodged	Appellant



ANNEXURE G - SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL

FOREST TOWN SCHOOL

Suspension from School

	aspension			ESTABLISHED 1948
Name of learner:				For Learners with Special Needs
You are further advise	ed that you have	e been suspended t	from School from	
(time) on Should you wish to apprincipal within 24 hor	opeal against th	is suspension, your	` ,	, ,
During your period of written permission wa		•		•
Server's Signature			Position	
Learner's Signature				
Witness Signature				
Date of this Notice of	Suspension			



ANNEXURE H – RIGHTS OF LEARNER FACING DISCIPLINARY ACTION

FOREST TOWN SCHOOL

Rights of Learner facing Disciplinary Action



Learner's rights (to be read to the learner by the Server):

- a. The right to a formal hearing.
- b. The right to be present at the hearing.
- c. The right to be given time to prepare your case.
- d. The right to be given advance notice of the charges.
- e. The right to be represented at the hearing by an internal representative.
- f. The right to be assisted at the hearing by parents/guardian if under age.
- g. The right to ask questions on any evidence produced, or on statements of witnesses.
- h. The right to call witnesses to testify on your behalf.
- i. The right to an interpreter (to be requested in writing by yourself, the learner, 24 hours prior to the hearing).
- j. The right to appeal within five (5) School days against any penalty by the Disciplinary Committee.
- k. If you do not attend, the hearing will be conducted in your absence.

I certify that the above rights have been read and explained to the learner

Server Designation

Learner Witness

Date



ANNEXURE I – EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL



FOREST TOWN SCHOOL

New Forest Road Forest Town JOHANNESBURG 2193 Telephone (011)646-0131

Email: info@fts.org.za

Date:

Date
(Address of parents of accused learner)
DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BODY ON THE ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:
D NUMBER:
Dear Mr and Mrs,
regret to inform you that the governing body of Forest Town School, has found your SON / DAUGHTER,, guilty of misconduct in terms of the Code of Conduct of this school. The clause of the Code of Conduct under which HE / SHE has been found guilty states:
n view of the above it has been decided to recommend to the HoD of the Gauteng Department of Education that your SON/DAUGHTER be expelled from this school. Pending the decision of the HoD your SON/DAUGHTER will be suspended from attending this school with effect from (Date). As soon as the HoD has made HIS/HER decision you will be
nformed in writing.
Should you wish to appeal against the decision of the HoD, you have the right to appeal to he Member of the Executive Council of GAUTENG who is responsible for Education.
However, should your appeal be unsuccessful and since your SON/DAUGHTER is of
compulsory school-going age, please contact the local District Office,
address: telephone number:
o make arrangements for the placement of your SON/DAUGHTER at another school.



Yours faithfully		
(Signature Chairperson: Governing Body)	
Please return this slip to the school. Receipt of the notification dated Governing Body to expel my son/daughter	informing us of the decision of the is hereby acknowledged.	
- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	provided will be processed in line with the prescriptions ct no 4 of 2013 and hereby give my consent for Forest	
Signature of parent/guardian		
Date		