

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Allergies

Some students have serious health-threatening allergies. The Medical Authorization Form requires disclosure of allergic tendencies; as appropriate, the school nurse will follow up with parents to get on file specific protocol for treatment for the student in the event of exposure.

Child Abuse and Harassment

In accordance with the basic teachings of the Episcopal Church and state and federal law, Heathwood Hall unequivocally opposes any form of abuse and harassment; in fact, our guiding philosophy asserts that the school community will respect the dignity of every human being. The intent of the policy developed around abuse and harassment is to educate students, parents, and school employees. There should be no presumption that behavior is not abuse or harassment merely because it is not specifically described here.

Child Abuse Policy

Child abuse refers to any incident where any individual, adult or child, engages in conduct that is potentially harmful to the physical, psychological or sexual well-being of any Heathwood Hall student. Child abuse can be sub-divided into four areas:

1. Physical abuse: non-accidental physical injury.
2. Physical neglect: extreme or repeated failure on the part of the caretaker to meet the child's physical needs, including the need for adequate supervision.
3. Psychological abuse: extreme and/or repeated conduct which is frightening, intimidating, or which undermines self-worth.
4. Sexual abuse: sexual involvement between a child and an individual who has greater knowledge, authority, power or resources. Sexual relationships between an adult employee and a student or recent graduate are always unacceptable.

Under South Carolina state law, the School is required to report cases of suspected child abuse to the State Department of Social Services. The purpose of such a reference is to allow an impartial organization to discern the truth and to keep the School out of the position of being an investigating body.

Complaints of Abuse

In cases of possible abuse, students are encouraged to report immediately to an adult member of the school community or to parents. The matter will be promptly and discretely investigated.

Harassment Policy

Heathwood Hall is committed to providing an environment free of harassment of any kind. Sexual harassment and harassment based on race, color, religion, socioeconomic status or disability violates the Heathwood Hall policy. Any employee who engages in harassment is subject to discipline, up to and including immediate termination. Any student who engages in harassment is subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal.

It is the policy of Heathwood Hall Episcopal School that harassment shall not be tolerated under any circumstances. We firmly believe that all persons are to be treated with respect and dignity. We shall respond to harassment in a manner that effectively deters future incidents.

Definition of Harassment

Harassment is unwelcome oral, written, or physical conduct directed at the characteristics of a person's race, color, ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, or disability. Examples of harassment include unwelcome patting, pinching, or physical contact; antigay comments; ethnic or racial slurs; or threats.

Student Reporting

If a student is the target of such conduct, he or she should contact the Associate Head of School. The Associate Head of School should ask the student to fill out a reporting form. The Associate Head of School shall notify the Head of School of all reports of harassment.

Mandatory Staff Reporting

Whenever any staff member in the course of his or her employment has reason to believe that: 1) harassment has been committed or is about to be committed on school property or by any student on or off school property; or 2) a student enrolled in the school has been or is about to become the victim of harassment, the school employee shall immediately notify the Associate Head of School.

The Head of School or his designee will place a written report summarizing the complaint of abuse or harassment in a permanent confidential file for review.

Communicable Diseases

Please contact the School immediately if your child has contracted any communicable disease. We are required by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) to inform our families if children have been exposed.

At the beginning of the school year, the nurse performs screening for head lice on all ECLC and Lower School children. More detailed information is distributed to parents at that time.

We require that parents not send children to school who have fever. A youngster must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to class. Students who miss the majority of the school day due

to illness should not attend extracurricular activities on that same day. Please refer to the school illness policy and health department guidelines on the Heathwood Hall website, or call the school nurse at 231-7728, if you have any questions concerning the health of your child and school attendance.

Counseling

Teachers are an integral part of Heathwood's guidance, counseling, and advisor program, and they serve as student advocates and first point of contact between the School and the home. In addition, trained counselors offer confidential counseling and guidance services and crisis intervention for students and their families. Counseling may be initiated by parents, teachers, peers or the individual student.

School counselors do not provide long-term therapy. When it appears a situation requires more than the school counselors are able to provide, an outside referral is made. A consulting child psychiatrist, Dr. Shaw Evans, also works closely with the counselors as necessary.

The school counselors offer a variety of parent education and support programs. Information about these programs and schedules are distributed throughout the school year.