

Rationale

Behaviour management is an ongoing and preventative process that aims to develop appropriate and responsible attitudes and behaviours in students. It works towards students achieving self-discipline, taking responsibility for their own behaviour choices.

Beliefs

- Discipline is built upon a rights and responsibility focus, with agreed upon rules that maintain the dignity and self worth of the individual.
- Discipline occurs in relationships in which mutual respect is shown.
- Students can be guided towards making better behavioural *choices* and thus, take *control* of their own behaviour.
- Consequences for behaviour choices, both positive and negative, are certain, consistent and clearly understood. The certainty of a consequence is more important than its severity
- Follow-up is an essential element in guiding students towards changes in behaviour.
- Discipline is a shared responsibility held by students, school staff and parents.

Outcomes

- A safe and secure teaching and learning environment
- Students working towards taking responsibility for their own behaviour
- Positive student self esteem
- Increasing acceptance of intrinsic rewards
- Respect for self, others and the environment
- Cooperative classroom environments
- Care and concern shown for others
- Effective conflict resolution

Implementation

- A stimulating learning environment is established in each classroom, where appropriate and relevant curriculum is being delivered.
- School PBS Values will be visibly displayed throughout the school environment and will be explicitly taught each year and revised when necessary.
- Each class teacher will have a classroom behaviour plan that is shared with parents at their Meet the Teacher meeting in Term 1 each year.
- To ensure a fair and consistent approach when dealing with behaviour management issues, the Positive Behaviour for Success framework will generally be used.
- When the rights of others are violated and rules are broken, consequences will apply. These consequences will be determined by the severity and frequency of the inappropriate behaviour. While the consequences are organised in a continuum, there may be occasions when a student will require a more serious consequence depending upon the nature of the inappropriate behaviour.
- Regular monitoring by the Learning Support Team, Stage Supervisor and/or PBS team will provide feedback to staff about the students being monitored. These students will be discussed and further action plans and strategies will be formulated and implemented.
- All Playground Behaviour issues will be recorded as per the school's PBS policies.

- Parents will be notified when a student's behaviour is causing concern.
- If a student exhibits extreme behaviour, which threatens the safety/learning of others, the student will be suspended in accordance with DET procedures and guidelines. Parents will be informed and participate in the process.
- Students with a history of aggressive or violent behaviour will have a Risk Management plan developed. This will be in accordance with OH&S guidelines and the plan will be communicated to staff.

Suspension and Expulsion

Options for unacceptable behaviour include suspension and expulsion.

Short Suspension A student may not attend school for up to and including four days.

Long Suspension A student may not attend school for up to and including twenty school days.

Expulsion A student may not attend any Government School. Expulsion can only be approved by the Minister on the recommendation of the Director General of School Education.

At Austinmer Public School a range of student welfare and discipline strategies will have been implemented in most cases before a suspension is imposed.

Suspension highlights for the student and the parents the unacceptability of the student's behaviour and the parent's responsibility for remediation of that behaviour. The school, parents and student's will work in partnership so that the student can return to school. The school counsellor will be involved in the process and will help to put the student on special behaviour program if needed.

Suspension may be used immediately for the following:

Short suspensions of up to four days may be imposed for the following reasons and will be reported in the following categories.

Continued Disobedience.

This includes, but is not limited to, breaches of the school discipline code such as: refusal to obey staff instructions; defiance; disrupting other students; minor criminal behaviour related to the school; use of alcohol or use of tobacco.

Aggressive Behaviour.

This includes, but is not limited to: hostile behaviour directed towards students, members of staff or other persons, including verbal abuse and abuse transmitted electronically such as by email or SMS text messages.

Long suspensions may be imposed for the following reasons and will be reported in the following categories:

Persistent Misbehaviour:

Including repeated refusal to follow the school discipline code; making serious threats against students or staff; behaviour that deliberately and persistently interferes with the rights of other students to learn or teachers to teach.

Physical Violence:

Which results in pain or injury, or which seriously interferes with the safety and well being of other students and staff.

Use or possession of a prohibited weapon, firearm or knife:

When the student uses or possesses a weapon which is listed in Schedule One of the Weapons Prohibition Act; the student uses a knife or possesses a knife (without reasonable cause); the student uses or possesses a firearm of any type.

Use of an implement as a weapon or threatening to use a weapon:

When any item is used as a weapon (other than in 3 above), in a way which seriously interferes with the safety and well being of another person. This includes an offensive implement which is anything made, or adapted for use to cause injury to a person.

Possession or use of a suspected illegal substance:

Not including alcohol or tobacco, but including supplying other students with illegal drugs or restricted substances such as prescription drugs.

Serious criminal behaviour related to the school:

Including malicious damage to property (school or community), or against the property or person of a fellow student or staff member on, or outside of the school premises. If the incident occurred outside the school or outside school hours, there must be a clear and close relationship between the incident and the school.

Consequences for Unacceptable Behaviour

The consequences for inappropriate behaviour have been developed in a hierarchical sequence. In all cases the student's age and the circumstances of the particular incidents are to be taken into account when determining consequences. All incidents of unacceptable behaviour are to be recorded as per our PBS guidelines

1. Teacher

Class: Teacher deals with situation in class, documenting evidence regarding behaviour indicating if parent has been notified. Discuss situation with other staff, supervisor and Learning Support plus PBS team where appropriate.

Playground: Teacher to record playground incident on PBS recording system.

Serious misdemeanors

Serious misdemeanors will be dealt with following the Suspension and Expulsion procedures.