



Discipline Policy

1. Description

This policy outlines the approach to the management of student behaviour and discipline at Shire Christian School. The objective of the policy is to provide a safe and supportive environment for all students in keeping with the school's purpose, vision, mission and statement of faith.

2. Policy

2.1 Principles

This policy is based on biblical principles of love, respect, accountability, personal responsibility and justice. God has given parents the responsibility of raising children (Ephesians 6:4) and disciplining them (Proverbs 13:24) lovingly (Proverbs 3:12). Given that one of the key features of the school's mission is to partner like-minded Christian parents, the school seeks to work with parents to apply these biblical principles in relation to student conduct at any school event or activity and also travel to or from these events.

The school will seek to implement this policy with reference to:

- The student code of conduct
- Information about what is required of students
- The published disciplinary guidelines for the Junior School and the Secondary School.
- Information on correspondence related to any school based activity e.g. an excursion.
- Verbal or written instructions given by a teacher or another person responsible for the delivery or supervision of any school based activity.

Some key principles of student discipline and behaviour management are:

- Natural justice and procedural fairness.
- A commitment to restorative discipline.
- Disciplining students usually involves training, instruction and reward as well as reproof, correction and punishment.
- Parents and teachers working cooperatively.
- The school being consistent in the application of its discipline by applying the same, or similar, consequences for like conduct.
- The school applying unique disciplinary consequences for student(s) if, in the professional judgement of the responsible teacher, the standard consequence is likely to either not change the child's behaviour or make the child's behaviour worse.
- The school will not reveal the disciplinary consequences for a child to third parties e.g. parents of other children.

2.2 Consequences

Students may receive a disciplinary consequence for any behaviour that breaches the published code of conduct, the disciplinary procedural guidelines or any other behavioural requirement, which is either written or explained to students verbally. Teachers have the discretion to interpret and apply any possible breach of a school rule or behavioural requirement. The types of consequences include, although are not limited to:

- The student being moved to a different part of the classroom or playground.
- The student being asked to stand outside a classroom.
- The student being sent from the classroom or the playground to another teacher.
- Reset (SS)/Reflection (JS) meeting
- Not being allowed to participate in a particular activity
- After-school detention
- Weekend detention
- Holiday detention
- Internal suspension (withdrawn from class)
- External suspension
- Expulsion

Where an ongoing pattern of negative behaviour is observed, a student may be referred to the school counsellor/psychologist or another member of the school's welfare team as a means of changing that student's behaviour. Another possible strategy to respond to ongoing negative behaviour is an individual behaviour plan.

2.3 Corporal punishment

The school prohibits the use of corporal punishment in disciplining students attending the school. The school does not explicitly or implicitly sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons, including parents, to enforce discipline at the school.

2.4 Suspension

Suspension is the temporary denial of students to participate in the regular life of the school. Suspension may be internal, where the student comes to school but does not attend regular lessons or mix with other students at recess or lunchtime. Suspension may be external, where the student is not allowed to come to school. Suspension is normally a minimum of one day.

Suspension of a student may be initiated for a number of reasons, which include:

- As an interim measure whilst an incident is investigated.
- As a means of seeking to ensure the safety of the suspended student or other members of the school community.
- As a consequence for either a one-off incident, or for repeated misconduct.
- As a penultimate consequence prior to expulsion from school.

The school will apply the principles of procedural fairness when suspending a student. Parents may appeal a decision to suspend their child. The principal is the final arbiter on any suspension.

2.5 Expulsion

Expulsion is when a student is permanently excluded from attending a school. A student may be expelled for either a one-off behavioural issue or a series of breaches of school behavioural requirements. A student may also be expelled because that student's parents have repeatedly refused to support the documented disciplinary procedures, codes of conduct and other relevant documentation. The termination of an enrolment as a result of a single act or omission by a student could be, although is not limited to, the following:

- The possession or use of illegal drugs
- The possession or use of alcohol
- The deliberate misuse of legal drugs or other substances
- Acts of violence towards other members of the school community
- Serious acts of intimidation
- Vandalism
- Theft

If the principal considers that expulsion is the most appropriate disciplinary consequence for a student, the parents of that student will receive written notification of the Principal's preliminary decision. In that written notification, the parents will be advised of their entitlement to request that the school board reviews the preliminary decision. If the parents choose this course of action, they will be entitled to provide the school board with any material they consider relevant to their request for a review. After considering the material sent to them, the board would contact the parents informing them of the board's decision. The board is the final arbiter on questions of expulsion.