



Student Wellbeing & Engagement Policy

Rationale:

Schools can discipline students for behaviour incidents occurring at school; at a school activity away from the school grounds; or while travelling to or from school or a school activity. Disciplinary measures should form part of a teacher's classroom management plan and be consistent with a whole school approach to behaviour management.

Implementation:

Disciplinary measures should always be proportionate to the nature of the behaviour, and are best employed in combination with support measures to identify and address causes of the behaviour.

The *Education Training and Reform Act (2006)* prohibits the use of corporal punishment in any Victorian Government school and school discipline policies must include a statement that reflects this requirement.

In-school discipline

Graded in-school disciplinary measures are used to respond to a range of challenging student behaviour and may be modified to suit particular circumstances as needed. Whilst these measures take place on school premises they may occur outside school hours. Refer to the Hepburn Primary School Code of Conduct for an outline of the graded in-school disciplinary approach.

As with all forms of discipline, the graded in-school disciplinary measures are set out in and aligned with the school's student engagement policy and expectations around behaviour and are used in a way that is proportionate to the behaviour being addressed.

Withdrawal of privileges

The principal and staff may withdraw student privileges as a consequence of breaching classroom or school behavioural standards. At times, specific privileges that are withdrawn may vary between students, however they may include things such as representing the school at inter-school sports or attendance at a school event.

When withdrawing privileges as a disciplinary measure, the principal and staff ensure that:

- The withdrawal is time-limited
- The reasons for and period of the withdrawal is clearly communicated to the student
- The student is made aware of the behaviour standards expected in order for the privileges to be reinstated



- Consideration is given to the impact on the student's engagement (i.e. where the withdrawal of a privilege may contribute to a student's risk of disengaging from school, strategies are put in place to maintain student engagement during the withdrawal).

Withdrawal from class

If a student's behaviour significantly interferes with the rights of other students to learn or the capacity of a teacher to teach a class or where there is possibility of harm to others, that student may be temporarily removed from regular classroom activities. In more serious cases the student may be required to leave the classroom for a specified period of time.

Schools have a duty of care to ensure that students are supervised at all times, including when they are removed from a class. Where appropriate, parents and carers should be informed of such withdrawals.

Withdrawal from class does not constitute formal school exclusion such as suspension (including in-school suspension) or expulsion.

Detention

Detention is an appropriate response for a wide range of less serious classroom and school behaviour breaches. Detention can effectively reinforce to students the importance of maintaining appropriate behaviour standards.

During detention the principal and staff may instruct a student to finish school work which has not been completed in regular classroom time as a result of the behaviour, new work or other duties. No more than half the time allocated for any recess may be used for this. Where students are required to undertake detention after school hours, the time will not exceed forty-five minutes.

Where the decision is made that an after-school detention is appropriate, the principal will ensure that parents or carers are informed at least one day before the detention. Where family circumstances are such that an after-school detention would create undue hardship, the principal may choose to negotiate alternative disciplinary measures with the parent or carer. Examples include where students regularly supervise younger siblings in the absence of parents or carers. Schools are permitted to detain students but are encouraged to take into account family circumstances and negotiate with parents and carers as appropriate.

Detention will be in accordance with the DET's Student Engagement Policy Guidelines.

Exclusion from school

In some instances it may be appropriate to suspend or expel a student who consistently compromises the safety and order of the school in order to protect the learning environment for remaining students and continue with effective teaching.



Suspension and expulsion are serious disciplinary measures and are best reserved for incidents when other measures have not produced a satisfactory response or where there is an immediate threat to another person and immediate action is required.

Suspension

Suspension is the process of excluding a student from the standard instruction or educational opportunities being provided to other students at the school for part of a day, a full day, or multiple days.

Expulsion

Expulsion is the process of permanently excluding the student from the school in which he or she is currently enrolled.

Expulsion will be in accordance with the DET's Student Engagement Policy Guidelines. Suspension and expulsion will be in accordance with the DET's Student Engagement Policy Guidelines, paying particular attention to Ministerial Order 1125.

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/expulsions/policy>