



## Student Discipline Policy

### Background

- Positive and responsible student behaviour is essential to the smooth running of the school, to the achievement of optimal learning opportunities, and to the development of a supportive and cooperative school environment.
- Schools develop student engagement policies to document how they:
  - create and maintain a positive and engaging school culture
  - create and maintain environments that are safe and supportive
  - value diversity and promote pro-social behaviour
  - promote school attendance
  - adopt a staged approach to promote positive behaviours
  - apply disciplinary measures
- A school-level policy needs to be compliant with DET's policy requirements.

### Purpose

- To ensure Werribee Primary School complies with DET policy and guidelines in regard to student engagement.
- To provide support for a student with behaviour or attendance related issues.

### Definitions

*Corporal punishment* is a form of physical *punishment* that involves the deliberate infliction of pain as retribution for an offence, or for the purpose of disciplining or reforming a wrongdoer, or to deter attitudes or behaviour deemed unacceptable.

*Affective Statements* – we include feelings word and language to address low level yet high frequency behaviours

*Affective Interactions*- we quickly take 1-on-1 responses to poor behaviour choices from past, through present, and into the future

*Small Impromptu Conferences*- we use Restorative Questions -to solve problems amongst and between groups.

*Large Group*– we run regular .circles in class to check in, check out, prepare, respond and to deliver content of all kind

*Formal Conferencing*- For the most serious, high impact behaviours and ongoing problems.

### Implementation

The school will:

- develop a Student Engagement Policy that contains all the elements required by DET
- use the School Wide Behaviour Matrix, developed in consultation with students and staff to teach, model and reinforce the standards of expected behaviour and promote student safety
- use the Classroom Management Flowchart which outlines a process for responding to appropriate/inappropriate behaviour
- deliver an inclusive and comprehensive curriculum which promotes positive behaviours and emphasises the well-being of every child
- employ whole school and classroom practices to establish a climate in which appropriate behaviour is the norm for all students and focus on the implementation of preventative and early intervention strategies to deal with attendance and behavioural issues
- recognise that for some students additional support may be needed in the form of staged responses and is committed to working with families to reintegrate students after exclusion

The students will:

- model the three school values; respect, responsibility and resilience
- comply with the school's policies and work with teachers and parents in developing strategies to improve outcomes

The parents will:

- have high expectations of their child's behaviour and an understanding of the schools behavioural expectations
- communicate with the school regarding their child's circumstances



- cooperate with the school by assisting in the development and enforcement of strategies to address individual needs

The staff will:

- look to address behaviour by starting with Affective Statements before they escalate
- be supported by Leadership to embed Restorative Language in Practice
- expose students to Affective Interactions facilitated by available School Leaders
- support School Leaders to look for ways to release Teachers to repair Student-Teacher relationship issues as a first response
- look for ways to include Parents in both the positive and negative behaviour patterns of their children
- use Restorative Conferences to return our Students from any internal or external suspension that might be required
- solve all problems restoratively, through the lens of high expectation & high support

Disciplinary measures may be used as part of a staged response to challenging behaviour in combination with other engagement and support strategies to address the range of factors that may have contributed to the student's behaviour. Discipline will be applied in a way that is proportionate to the behaviour and upholds procedural fairness.

When standards of behaviour are breached, Disciplinary measures that may be applied include:

- Restorative approach (e.g. repairing damage caused and providing an opportunity to reteach the expected behaviour)
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Withdrawal from class activities for a specified period. Where appropriate, parents/carers will be informed of such withdrawals
- Detention
- Suspension (in-school and out of school)
- Expulsion

When determining consequences, corporal punishment is expressly forbidden. If considering detention as a consequence the school must ensure DET's guidelines are strictly observed. Please see the web references below. The school may use suspension, but only when all other measures have failed and only for the shortest possible time. Expulsion is a measure of last resort and DET guidelines must be followed to ensure ongoing schooling is provided. The right of appeal by parents is acknowledged. If a student has challenging behaviour or attendance issues, a Student Support Group will be formed. The role of the SSG will be to better understand and provide for the student's needs including an Individual Learning Plan which may state behavioural goals. Please refer also to the school's Student Engagement Policy, the Wellbeing & Learning Policy and the Bullying Policy.

### **Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change.

**This policy was ratified by School Council on 15 November 2016**

Next Review: November 2018

Reference:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/engagement.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/engagement.aspx)  
[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/suspensions.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/suspensions.aspx)  
[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/supportgroups.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/supportgroups.aspx)  
[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/detention.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/detention.aspx)  
[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/expulsions.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/expulsions.aspx)  
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/discipline.aspx>