

“Serve Him in Others”

ST JOSEPH’S COLLEGE

Behaviour, Suspension and Exclusion Policy

Policy Statement:

St Joseph’s College seeks to develop self-discipline in students through the fostering of positive relationships among all community members. Students will be encouraged to live wholesome lives, respecting others and taking responsibility for their own actions and paying particular attention, where appropriate, to the principles of ‘Restorative Justice’ and Catholic Education Office Policy.

Definition: Discipline is embedded in understanding and self-moderation. Role modelling by parents and teachers provides significant influence, especially in the formative years. Good role modelling will encourage self-discipline and nurture self-esteem.

Boundaries are an essential part of life and all must learn what it is to operate successfully within appropriate boundaries and within a community such as St Joseph’s. Mistakes and poor choices are a part of life, just as are accountability, forgiveness and justice. Young people must be encouraged to accept consequences and to become the best they can be.

Definition of “Restorative Justice”

Restorative justice recognises that the ill effects of harmful behaviour results in an alienated community. The practice of restorative justice does not value dominance but prioritises mutual respect and the affirmation of human dignity, while holding individuals accountable. A central tenet that is developed in this process is the importance of social relationships to individual and social well-being. Restorative justice at its heart holds that the nature of our social relationships is central to the nature of our individual lives. The theory argues that the process is restorative in that an intervention with the one/s hurt and the one/s who caused the harm;

- Makes it clear to the offender that her/his behaviour is not condoned within the community;
- Is respectful and supportive of the individual while not condoning the behaviour.

Gospel Values associated with behaviour choices and discipline:

Love, care, faith, compassion, justice, forgiveness, accountability, respect, endurance, hope, witness, responsibility, tolerance.

Consequences:

- The College will set guidelines and expectations of behaviour.
- All structures should allow for student growth.
- Each student will be given the opportunity for a just and compassionate analysis of any situation.
- The students will be expected to learn self-discipline and accountability.
- The students will be expected to develop a sense of worth of self and of others.
- Each incident will be considered holistically including any history of offences or a particular pattern of poor behaviour.
- Parents, where necessary, will be notified of unacceptable behaviour and consequences.
- Repeat offenders will be interviewed with parents by the Principal and Assistant Principal - Students.
- A student may need to be suspended from participation at St Joseph’s either internally or externally for a finite period of time in order to fully reflect upon the implications of his/her actions.
- In very serious cases of unacceptable behaviour, the College may decide that the needs of a particular student cannot be met at St Joseph’s. In cases which result in exclusion, the Principal may be proactive in finding a new school for that student.

Procedures:

- The classroom teacher takes responsibility for student behaviour in the classroom as far as possible.
- Teachers need to be consistent in their expectations of students.
- All teachers will make frequent referral to the Vision Statement, Personal Property and Procedures and Classroom Principles.
- Action in response to problems should be taken as soon as is practicable.
- Teachers may, if necessary, refer issues of behaviour management to a student's House Coordinator and in turn to the Assistant Principal – Students.
- Early communication with parents or caregivers is essential.
- Where a student is considered to be "at risk", the student will be offered counselling.
- Parents are notified in writing if their son/daughter is suspended internally or externally. Staff are also informed.
- The Principal is responsible for the enrolment, suspension and exclusion of students.

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