



DISCIPLINE POLICY

DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

Policy Number	09/07
Policy Name	Discipline Policy
Applicability	All Systemic Schools
Contact Person	Service Leaders – Leadership
Policy Status	Endorsed
Date of Approval	8 th August 2007
Date Last Amended	July 2007
Related Policies/Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion Policy & Procedures• Amendments to the Crimes Act• Duty of Care Guidelines
Review Period:	2014

GENERAL POLICY ON DISCIPLINE FOR DIOCESAN SYSTEMIC SCHOOLS

Rationale

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga are committed to “ensuring fairness and justice within appropriate discipline structures”¹. This is characterised by endorsing the gospel values of justice, inclusion, reconciliation, respect, trust and honesty.

Policy Statement

It is the Policy of the Diocesan Catholic Schools Commission to offer all students an education of the highest quality and to assist each student to develop fully as an individual and as a member of the Catholic School community and the wider community. To this end, teachers encourage a learning/teaching environment where there is appropriate management to ensure purposeful learning. The school policy on student management is understood and adhered to by teachers and students. The discipline of students is based on procedural fairness which is a basic right of all when dealing with authorities.

Supporting Statements

Should the behaviour of a student seriously interfere with these aims, a decision may be taken to suspend the student from the school. Schools can make a decision to suspend a child internally or externally. In extreme circumstances, the Principal may submit a request to recommend the student’s expulsion from one school or exclusion from a number of schools.

Suspension is a temporary removal of a student from all of the classes that student would normally attend at a school for a period of time.

Expulsion is the permanent removal of a student from one particular school.

Exclusion is the act of preventing a student’s admission to a number of schools.

Behaviours warranting *consideration* of suspension and/or exclusion are:

- Behaviour disruptive to a student's own learning and/or other students' learning
- Aggressive or dangerous behaviour
- Drug related behaviour
- Sexual harassment of other students or teachers
- Other behaviours believed to warrant actions
(Refer to Diocese of Wagga Wagga Suspension, Expulsion and Exclusion Policy & Procedures)

¹Vision and Mission Statement, Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Wagga Wagga

Key points regarding suspension and/or exclusion of students should be recorded in writing in regards to relevant interviews with the student, parents, and counsellors.

Serious Offences

The Catholic Schools Office requires that each school prepare its *own* written policy on the nature of serious offences. This policy is available to all members of the school community after it has been developed, and it is to be reviewed regularly.

In formulating such a policy statement, school communities specify what constitutes a serious offence. The Catholic Schools Office proposes that a serious offence is defined in terms such as activities or behaviour which seriously:

- i.) undermine the ethos of the Catholic School
- ii.) affect the rights of teachers and/or students to participate in teaching and/or learning processes
- iii.) endanger the physical and/or emotional and/or moral welfare of the students and/or teachers
- iv.) interfere with the day-to-day running of the school

Parent Responsibilities

All parents have completed the official Application for Enrolment form and are prepared to abide by the provisions of the form, including this policy statement, and are aware of the Suspension, Expulsion and Exclusion Policy of the Diocese. Schools provide each of their own policies to parents at enrolment time. This policy is available on the CSO public website. It is also available when a student presents for interview prior to enrolment.

Endorsed at DCSC Meeting on 8 August 2007.