



St Philip's Christian College Port Stephens Student Discipline Policy

General Statement

All students have the right to be treated with dignity in a way which promotes procedural fairness for students, in an environment that is free from harassment, intimidation, disruption and discrimination. To that end, St Philip's Christian College Port Stephens will uphold high standards of discipline.

In implementing these associated procedures, which are based on procedural fairness, the Principal will take into account the student's age, individual needs, developmental level and any disability. The Principal will also consider the safety, care and welfare of the student, staff and other students in the class and school.

"Love one another just as I have loved you" (John 13:34)

The aspiration of the College is to demonstrate the love of God and for the values of Jesus Christ to permeate the life of our school community. Pastoral care and discipline at St Philip's Christian College Port Stephens, encompasses all that we are and all that we do.

Aim:

The aim of the Student Discipline Policy is to ensure that we provide a safe, secure and positive learning environment where all students feel valued and supported and, are treated in a way that upholds procedural fairness.

To achieve this, we need to employ strategies which enable students to develop and model appropriate behaviour and to modify inappropriate behaviour.

Rationale:

Every student has a right to feel safe and secure and be able to learn to the best of their ability. Inappropriate behaviour should not interfere with teaching and learning. Students must have an understanding of the consequences of their actions so they can make positive choices about their behaviour.

Implicit within this document is the belief that teachers have a responsibility for:

- strengthening relationships in the school community.
- assisting students to resolve their difficulties.
- repairing relationships between students.

Families are partners in this process and will be informed of patterns of behaviour that cause a concern within the school and will be involved in the process to address these concerns.

St Philip's Christian College Port Stephens and the St Philip's Christian Education Foundation do not endorse the use of corporal punishment in the discipline of students.

Definitions:

Suspension is a temporary removal of a student from all of the classes that a student would normally attend at a school for a set 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. In extreme circumstances, the Principal may make a submission to an appropriate authority, or to other schools, recommending the permanent exclusion of a student from the registration system of which the school is a member, or from other schools.

Context:

1. Students are required to abide by the school's rules and to follow the directions of teachers and other people with authority delegated by the School.
2. Where a student disregards rules, disobeys instructions or otherwise engages in conduct which causes or may cause harm, inconvenience or embarrassment to the School, staff members or other students, the student may be subject to disciplinary action.
3. The disciplinary procedures undertaken by the School vary according to the seriousness of the alleged offence. Where the allegation, if proved, may result in suspension or expulsion, the student and parents will be informed of the allegations and procedural steps to be followed in dealing with the matter. In relation to all matters to be investigated, students will be informed of the nature of the allegation and given an opportunity to respond to the allegations.
4. The penalties imposed vary according to the behaviour and the prior record of the student. At the lower end of the scale, an admonition or detention may be appropriate. At the upper end of the scale the behaviour could result in suspension or expulsion.
5. 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 families, to enforce discipline at the school.
6. Where the offending behaviour is of such a nature that it may result in suspension or expulsion, the student will be:
 - a. Informed of the alleged infringement/incident.
 - b. Informed as to who will make the decision on the penalty.
 - c. Informed of the procedures to be followed which will include an opportunity to have a family member present when responding to the allegations.
 - d. Afforded a right of review or appeal.

Related Documents:

Junior School Behaviour Management Procedures

Middle School Behaviour Management System 2022

Senior School Welfare Procedures 2022

Policy Review:

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years, or as needed in line with legislative changes and the requirements of the Association of Independent Schools.

The College's policies which are made from time to time are made pursuant to the requirements set out in section 47 of the Education Act and of the NESAs for registration of the school.

St Philip's Christian College Port Stephens
"For the Whole of Their Life"

182 Salamander Way, Salamander Bay NSW 2317 spcc.nsw.edu.au (02) 4919 5400

Composition and Review – Sarah Deacon Risk and Compliance Manager (SPCC Foundation)

Ratified – 8 June 2022 by St Philip's Christian College Port Stephens Executive Leadership Team

Review Cycle Annual

Policy Version 1.1