



School Registration

Suspension and Expulsion Policy and Procedures

Introduction

The School must show evidence of a policy that outlines the steps for managing suspensions and expulsions of students.

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy and its Procedures is to outline our Suspension and Expulsion requirements.

Scope

This Policy and its Procedures apply to all staff, volunteers and contractors at the school

Roles and Responsibilities

The College maintains a register of suspensions and expulsions. This is maintained by the College Leader - Student Wellbeing.

Policy Statement

Every student has the right to a learning environment free from bullying and intimidation and to feel safe and happy at school. They also have the right to be treated fairly and with dignity.

The Student Behaviour Management (Discipline) Policy and Procedures sets the framework through which the College manages student discipline.

Suspension or expulsion may occur as a consequence of a serious breach of the College's rules, or serious disobedience.

It is our policy that our procedures for the suspension or expulsion of a student are based on the principles of procedural fairness.

Alternatives to Suspension or Expulsion

Despite the fact that a student has been referred for suspension or expulsion, other consequences may be imposed. These are outlined in the Student Behaviour Management (Discipline) Policy and Procedures.

Suspensions and Expulsion

A decision under this policy may result in the following consequences:

Short Suspension:

A short suspension may be imposed as a consequence of things such as continued disobedience, or aggressive behaviour.

The student may be suspended from attending school for a period of four (4) school days or less.

Long Suspension:

A long suspension may be imposed as a consequence of things such as physical violence, possession of a weapon, possession of a suspected illegal substance or serious criminal behaviour.

The student may be suspended from attending school for a period of between five (5) to twenty (20) school days.

Expulsion:

A student may be expelled from The College. This should be considered as a last resort.

An expelled student will be unenrolled from The College and will not be allowed to re-enrol without the permission of the Principal.

A decision to expel a student may only be made after consultation with the Principal.

Procedures

This Policy sets out the procedures to be followed when making a decision about the suspension or expulsion of a student.

Who May Make a Decision to Suspend or Expel a Student?

Where any teacher or staff member decides that an act or the behaviour of a student may warrant suspension or expulsion the teacher or staff member must refer the matter to the Principal, or an alternative, disinterested (independent and objective) member of the School Leadership Team who can make a reasonable and unbiased decision.

In serious circumstances, a student may be summarily suspended, pending a final decision under this policy. In this case, a meeting with the student and the student's parents to review the suspension must be convened as soon as is practicable.

Procedural Fairness – Procedures

The College is committed to ensuring procedural fairness when disciplining a student. All decisions about the discipline of a student will be conducted in accordance with our Student Behaviour Management (Discipline) Policy and Procedures.

Where a decision is being considered to suspend or expel a student, the Principal will:

- write to the student, and the student's parents/carers stating:
 - the reasons that the student is under consideration for being suspended or expelled
 - the relevant rules, policies, standards of behaviour alleged to be breached
 - the relevant allegations said to warrant suspension or expulsion
- allow the student and/or the student's parents/carers to give a response, either in writing or verbally
- allow the student to have a support person of the student's choosing
- arrange a meeting with the student, and the student's parents/carers
- arrange for an interpreter, if one is required

- meet with the student and the student's parents/carers and/or support person
- ensure that such a meeting is recorded in writing.

Considerations

The Principal, after following the procedures set out in this Policy, will make a decision about the facts of the allegations against the student. The Principal will then decide whether to suspend or expel a student based on the following considerations:

- the safety of all students, staff and visitors
- the seriousness of the student's acts
- the response or remorse of the student, if applicable
- the pastoral care and welfare of the student
- the student's prospects for rehabilitation.

Notification of Decision

The decision made under this Policy will be communicated in writing to the student and the student's parents/carers. The Principal will also attempt to communicate this decision verbally.

The student, and the student's parents/carers must abide by the terms and conditions of the decision.

Appeals

A student may seek a review of a decision made under this policy. All appeals must be made in writing, setting out the grounds of appeal.

An appeal from a decision to suspend a student must be made to the Principal.

An appeal from a decision to expel a student must be made to the Kildare Education Ministries.

Implementation

Implementation

This Policy is implemented by:

- staff professional development opportunities in behaviour management

- communicating this Policy to the College community
- monitoring the effectiveness of the Policy
- reviewing and evaluating this Policy annually.

Breach

This section is not applicable to this Policy.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Suspension	A suspension is a temporary removal of a student from all classes that a student would normally attend at school for a set period of time.
Expulsion	Expulsion is the permanent removal of a student from one particular school.

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Source of Obligation

The ETR Act (s 4.3.1(6)) requires that our policies relating to the discipline of students are to be based on principles of procedural fairness and must not permit corporal punishment.

Commitment to Democratic Principles

The programs of learning and teaching at St. Joseph's College, inspired by our values of Hope, Compassion, Justice, Wonder, Courage and Hospitality; support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy.

- We educate our students about the value of democratically-elected government and their place as a contributing citizen within our society.
- We respect and observe the rule of law and believe that no person is above the law.
- We respect equal rights for all before the law.
- We acknowledge freedom of religion and the need to practice tolerance and understanding of others' beliefs, supported by our Religious Education program.
- We respect the value of freedom of speech and freedom of association and acknowledge that we have the responsibility not to abuse this freedom.
- We value the importance of openness and tolerance, and value and respect all members of the school community regardless of background.



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- [Student Behaviour Management \(Discipline\) Policy and Procedures](#)

Related Documents

There are no related documents applicable to this Policy.

References

There are no applicable references for this Policy.

Policy Administration

Insert Policy Control/Administration Information