



Northern
Territory
Government

DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Information for **schools**

Safe Schools NT

Code of Behaviour

*'Safe schools, responsible behaviour,
quality learning and teaching'*



The purpose of the *Safe Schools NT Code of Behaviour* is to ensure all school members to feel safe at school. Schools are safe and promote responsibility, respect, active citizenship

Essential to effective learning is a safe, supportive and disciplined environment where people respect:

- the rights of all people to be treated with respect and dignity
- the rights of all students to learn
- the rights of teachers to teach
- the rights of all to be safe.

Code of Behaviour

Students are to be treated with respect and dignity. In return, they must demonstrate respect for themselves, others and the school environment. Students are expected to:

- come to school prepared, on time and ready to learn
- participate actively in the school's education program
- follow the *Safe Schools NT Code of Behaviour* and the *School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy* by taking responsibility for their own behaviour and learning
- behave in a way that respects the rights and property of others, including the right of students to learn and the right of teachers to teach
- cooperate with staff and others in authority
- refrain from bringing anything to school that may compromise safety.

Parents/carers play an important role in the education of their children and have a responsibility to support the efforts of school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all. Parents/carers are expected to:

- ensure their child attends school regularly, on time, prepared and ready to learn
- support school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students through the *Safe Schools NT Code of Behaviour* and the *School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy*
- initiate and maintain constructive communication with school staff
- comply with mandatory reporting guidelines
- have an active interest and cooperate with the school to achieve the best learning, wellbeing and behavioural outcomes for their child.

All school community members are expected to:

- follow the *Safe Schools NT Code of Behaviour* by taking responsibility for their own behaviour and actions
- respect and comply with Australian law, especially in relation to unlawful behaviour involving weapons, alcohol, drugs, dangerous acts, vandalism, violence, verbal abuse and sexual misconduct
- respect the rights and diversity of others and treat others fairly and with dignity
- demonstrate honesty and integrity
- show proper care and regard for school and other people's property
- take appropriate measures to help those in need
- resolve conflict in a non-threatening manner.

The following student behaviours will not be tolerated and are likely to lead to suspension and where appropriate, police involvement will occur:

- physical abuse
- verbal abuse
- sexual assault
- intimidation and threats
- bullying and harassment including cyber bullying
- possession of a weapon and/or use of a weapon
- possession of and/or trafficking in illicit drugs or being under the influence of illicit drugs
- possession of and/or being under the influence of alcohol or providing alcohol to others
- possession of or supplying tobacco products or smoking on school grounds
- vandalism
- stealing
- obscene or offensive acts.

Principals have an obligation to ensure that natural justice has occurred and that all circumstances have been considered before enforcing the suspension. It is expected that schools will provide appropriate intervention for the student upon their re-entry to the school.

While it is recognised parents/carers may become agitated in circumstances where their child is experiencing difficulties at school, behaviour that is offensive, abusive or threatening will not be tolerated. Where appropriate, police involvement will occur.

It is to affirm the right of all school community members to productive learning and teaching environments and academic excellence.

Teachers and school staff, under the leadership of their principals, maintain order in the school in a respectful and responsible manner. Teachers and school staff are expected to:

- ensure consistency and fairness in implementing the *School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy*
- provide safe and supportive learning environments
- provide inclusive and engaging curriculum and teaching
- initiate and maintain constructive communication and relationships with students and parents/carers
- promote the skills of responsible self-management with students
- comply with mandatory reporting guidelines.

Principals, under the direction of the General Manager Schools/Regional Director and in consultation with the School Council, take a leadership role in the daily operation of a school. Principals are expected to:

- play a strong leadership role in implementing and communicating the *Safe Schools NT Code of Behaviour* and the *School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy* in the school community
- support staff in ensuring compliance with the *Safe Schools NT Code of Behaviour* and the *School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy* by facilitating professional learning to promote responsible behaviour
- communicate high expectations for individual achievement and behaviour
- review and monitor the effectiveness of school practices and their impact on student learning
- facilitate the collection of data relating to behaviour, wellbeing and academic outcomes
- engage the support of external agencies when required eg Family and Children Services, Police and non-government organisations
- ensure consistency and fairness in implementing the *School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy*.

General Managers Schools/Regional Directors are expected to:

- endorse the *School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy*
- ensure that school plans are implemented consistently, fairly and reasonably
- support school principals in their responsibilities under the *Safe Schools NT Code of Behaviour* and the *School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy*
- facilitate the resolution of grievances
- ensure the allocation of sufficient human, physical and fiscal resources to achieve outcomes for students and teachers within the whole school framework.

Consequences for unacceptable student behaviour

Student behaviour that does not conform to the expected standards is not acceptable. The *School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy* will set out the range and level of consequences for unacceptable student behaviour.

Consequences must:

- provide the opportunity for all students to learn
- ensure the safety of staff and students
- assist students who exhibit unacceptable behaviours to accept responsibility for themselves and their actions.

Schools are authorised by DEET to use a range of consequences that may include:

- time out strategies
- withdrawal of privileges
- detention
- restorative processes
- reflective thinking rooms
- mediation
- suspension
- police involvement.

In applying consequences for unacceptable student behaviour, the individual circumstances and actions of the student and the needs and rights of the school community will be considered. Access to alternative programs and input from other agencies may be necessary for students who repeatedly behave unacceptably.

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