

POLICY

MANAGEMENT OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

Responsibility of: Schools Policy and Operations
Effective Date: December 2008
Next Review Date: December 2010

DET File: 2008/1576
Doc2008/05681
VERSION NUMBER: 1

1 POLICY

Schools must develop and implement a School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy that aligns the school context, values, culture and behaviour expectations with the Safe Schools NT Code of Behaviour.

The School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy will include strategies to ensure a safe and positive learning environment and processes for the effective management of student behaviour. It will include both positive and preventative approaches to managing student behaviour as well as the appropriate use of consequences for students who display unacceptable behavior. In this context, behaviour that is offensive, abusive or threatening will not be tolerated and can lead to suspension or expulsion of a student.

The School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy should be developed in consultation with the schools manager and school council, and regularly communicated to staff, parents and students.

2 BUSINESS NEED

The management of student behaviour is integral in the teaching and learning process. The Department of Education and Training (DET) supports schools in creating safe and productive learning environments that promote responsibility, respect and resiliency. This policy and guidelines have been developed to align with the Safe Schools NT Code of Behaviour which affirms the right of all school community members to feel safe at school.

3 RESPONSIBILITIES

Schools managers

Schools managers are responsible for:

- overseeing the development and implementation of School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policies
- ensuring that schools apply consistency and fairness in managing student behaviour
- ensuring that principals have followed correct procedures and adhered to the requirements of this policy and guidelines.

School principals

School principals are responsible for:

- leading and ensuring the development, implementation and maintenance of the School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy in collaboration with the school council
- complying with this policy and guidelines, the relevant provisions of the *Education Act*, *Criminal Code Act*, and the principles of procedural fairness
- maintaining regular communication with their schools manager and school community in relation to management of student behaviour.

Teachers and school staff

Teachers and school staff are expected to ensure consistency and fairness in implementing the School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy developed by the school.

4 DEFINITION

Detention: the process of restricting activities for students as a result of unacceptable behaviour (s.196(2) *Criminal Code Act* refers).

Expulsion: the process of preventing a student from continuing to be enrolled or being re-enrolled at any government school (s28 *Education Act* refers).

Month: twenty school days.

Parent(s): inclusive of those with parental responsibility and caregivers.

Procedural Fairness (Natural Justice): common law requires administrative decision-makers to accord procedural fairness to all parties at all times, including the right to be fully informed of all allegations and to have an opportunity to respond.

Serious breach of discipline: an act that is defined in the School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy as a serious breach of school discipline, or that which adversely affects or threatens the safety of a person at the school.

Suspension: the withdrawal of a student's right to attend school on a full time or part – time basis during a period of time of not more than one month in any given instance of suspension (s.27 *Education Act* refers).

Unacceptable behaviour: student behaviour that does not conform to the expected standards outlined in the School Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy.

5 RELATED POLICIES

Complaints Policy
Drug Taking by Students
Police in Schools
Occupational Violence (under development)
Students with Disabilities

6 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Criminal Code Act (NT)
Disability Discrimination Act 1992
Disability Standards for Education 2005
Education Act (NT) and relevant Ministerial Delegations
Information Act (NT)
Workplace Health and Safety Act (NT)
Safe Schools NT Framework and Code of Behaviour

7 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

This policy will be displayed on the DET website and will be available to the public.

8 REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

9 GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES

The Management of Student Behaviour Guidelines provide information to assist with behaviour management planning and outline procedures associated with consequences that are based on statutory authority i.e. detention, suspension and expulsion.