

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Policy statement

At Star of the Sea School, our aim is to create a welcoming and caring environment in which all members of the school community respect and uphold the dignity of each person.

We acknowledge that each member of our school community has certain basic rights. With these rights come certain responsibilities. Schools are complicated social systems, but if we expect and trust the fact that we have rights, then we must also acknowledge that we all have a responsibility to follow a behaviour code that fits with those rights.

We acknowledge the responsibility of parents and teachers to teach appropriate behaviour through a positive management approach.

In the event of breaching the behaviour code, appropriate consequences shall be determined appropriate to the student's age. Students will also be made aware that they will be rewarded for positive behaviours in the classrooms and the playground.

Guidelines for Implementation:

At the beginning of each year, all teachers will formulate their vision statement for their teaching area and will also discuss what are inappropriate behaviours and what would be the logical consequences. These will be posted on the wall of each teaching area. Parents will also receive a copy.

The following steps are followed in all the teaching areas.

STEP ONE

A child who is behaving inappropriately is asked to step aside by a peer, teacher or school officer. The child is made aware of the offending behaviour and is reminded that it is inappropriate. The pair then return to their work quietly.

STEP TWO

If the child chooses to continue with the offending behaviour, then the teacher asks the child to step outside, reminds them of their choices and sits the child in time out within the classroom.

STEP THREE

If time-out is ineffective and the child continues to disrupt, she/he is sent to another teaching area and is asked to complete a behaviour profile sheet. The sheet is signed by the teacher, taken home to be sighted and signed by a parent and returned to the teacher. When this occurs, a note is made of the offending behaviour and the consequence. The principal then keeps the 'Behaviour Report' sheet.

STEP FOUR

When a child has accumulated two 'Behaviour Report' sheets within a short period of time the parents are notified and a meeting is arranged between the parents, teacher, Principal and child. Appropriate consequences are then determined on a case-by-case basis.

Playground behaviors

A process similar to the above 4 step process will be followed in the playground except that the inappropriate behaviour will be dealt with by the teacher on duty for Steps 1 and 2. If a child reaches Step 3, the child's class teacher will be informed so that upon being reported the child will complete a "Behaviour Report" sheet. When a child has accumulated two "Behaviour Report" sheets, the parents are notified and a meeting is arranged between the parents, teacher, Principal and child.

SEVERE BEHAVIOURS

Occasionally, severe behaviours will be noted that require a more serious action.

These include:

- × ***Bullying***
- × ***Theft***

- × ***Vandalism***
- × ***Graffiti***

- × ***Fighting***
- × ***Disrespect to staff***

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Rationale

Star of the Sea community acknowledges that each person has the right to be treated with dignity and to feel safe and secure within the school environment. To ensure that these rights are further guaranteed, we have surveyed our parents, staff and students regarding their perceptions of safety and bullying here at Star of the Sea. This policy complements existing policies and procedures here at Star of the Sea and addresses the primary issues raised during the consultation process.

The existing policies and procedures include the following:

- Behaviour Management Policy
- Virtues Programme
- Social Skills Programme "Friends"
- Protective Behaviours Programme
- Watson Road Behaviour Management
- Friendly Kids, Friendly Classrooms

What is bullying?

Bullying occurs when an individual is repeatedly exposed, over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more persons. Bullying involves

- A desire to hurt
- A hurtful action
- A power imbalance
- An unjust use of power

Repetition of the negative behaviours

- Evident enjoyment by the aggressor
- A sense of being oppressed on the part of the victim.

Aims:-

1. to nurture and promote the holistic development of each person.
2. to promote an understanding that no form of bullying is acceptable.
3. to teach and encourage resilience in all members of the Star of the Sea community
4. to encourage a supportive network among students, staff and parents.
5. to regularly reiterate the importance of Protective Behaviour 'networks' and procedures.
6. to raise awareness and tolerance of the

We will:

1. display anti-bullying information throughout school.
2. promote resilient behaviours regularly at assemblies.
3. publicly affirm positive behaviours
4. actively employ peer mediators.
5. report all incidents verbally or in writing to Administration Staff
6. ensure that all reports are acted upon.

At all times, positive behaviours will be affirmed.

We will not tolerate bullying. We can do something about it. Remember that every reported incident will be investigated and it is right for you to tell someone if you, or your friends, are feeling bullied or unsafe.

Evaluation

A review of the Star of the Sea Bullying Policy will take place annually. This will include staff, students and parents. Parental support will be encouraged and affirmed at all times. As part of the commitment to Star of the Sea, parents and caregivers will be encouraged to provide a written response as to the policy's effectiveness, at the end of each school year.

When behaviors such as this occur, the parents are notified immediately by letter or telephone call. The consequences will usually be agreed upon by the Principal and the student. Parents will be made aware of the consequence.

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES:

- constructive lunchtime detention e.g. acts of community service (cleaning, picking up litter, tidying up)
- exclusion from school excursions, camps, interschool representation

Process for Handling Formal Complaints

* The complainant and the respondent will meet with the Principal, teacher or delegate. Action will be decided upon. Documentation will be kept. No further action will be taken if matter resolved.

* Repeated incidents by the same child / children will require parent / guardian consultation with the Principal. Action will be decided upon. Documentation will be kept. No further action will be taken if matter is resolved.

* Individual behaviour modification programmes for repeat offenders will be instigated and monitored.

* If this is unsuccessful, enrolment may be reviewed.

