

## DISCIPLINE

### Background

- Positive and responsible student behaviour is essential to the smooth running of the school, to the achievement of optimal learning opportunities, and to the development of a supportive and cooperative school environment.
- Every student deserves a safe and positive learning experience where they are engaged and supported to reach their full potential.
- Schools develop student engagement policies to document how they:
  - create and maintain a positive and engaging school culture
  - create and maintain environments that are safe and supportive
  - value diversity and promote pro-social behaviour
  - promote school attendance
  - adopt a staged approach to promote positive behavior's
  - apply disciplinary measures
- A school-level policy needs to be compliant with DET's policy requirements.

### Purpose

- To ensure Newport Gardens Primary School complies with DET policy and guidelines in regard to student engagement.
- To provide support for a student with behaviour or attendance related issues.

### Definitions

Corporal punishment is a form of physical punishment that involves the deliberate infliction of pain as retribution for an offence, or for the purpose of disciplining or reforming a wrongdoer, or to deter attitudes or behaviour deemed unacceptable.

### Implementation

- The school will develop a Student Engagement Policy that contains all the elements required by DET.
- School rules will be kept to a minimum and relate largely to student safety.
- The school will determine the standards of behaviour required and the consequences which may include
  - graded in-school disciplinary measures
  - withdrawal of privileges
  - withdrawal from class
  - detention
  - exclusion from school
  - suspension
  - expulsion
- **When determining consequences, corporal punishment is expressly forbidden.**
- If considering detention as a consequence the school must ensure DEECD's guidelines are strictly observed. Please see the web references below.
- The school may use suspension, but only when all other measures have failed and only for the shortest possible time.
- Expulsion is a measure of last resort and DET guidelines must be followed to ensure ongoing schooling is provided. The right of appeal by parents is acknowledged.
- Ministerial Order 625 (Procedures for Suspension and Expulsion) took effect on 1 March 2014. The Order defines the grounds and process for suspensions, expulsions and appeals relating to expulsions of students in government schools.
- Only the Principal has authority to make the final decision to expel a student. This authority cannot be delegated.
- If a student has challenging behaviour or attendance issues, a Student Support Group will be formed. The role of the SSG will be to better understand and provide for the student's needs including an Individual Learning Plan which may state behavioural goals.
- Please refer also to the school's Student Engagement Policy, the Wellbeing & Learning Policy and the Bullying Policy & Harassment Policy.

### Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update early April 2014).

This update was ratified by School Council on August 16<sup>th</sup> 2016

References:

- [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/engagement.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/engagement.aspx)
- [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/suspensions.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/suspensions.aspx)
- [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/supportgroups.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/supportgroups.aspx)
- [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/detention.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/detention.aspx)
- [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/expulsions.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/expulsions.aspx)

