



Mary MacKillop College South Gippsland

Student Discipline Policy

Source of Obligation

The Victorian Registration Standards (s 4.3.1(6)) (CECV Guidelines ref 5) require that our policies relating to the discipline of students are based on principles of procedural fairness and must not permit corporal punishment.

Discipline Policy

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.

Discipline is necessary to ensure the safety and welfare of all our students, teachers and staff and to provide a conducive learning environment.

This Student Discipline Policy sets the framework through which Mary MacKillop College manages student discipline.

This Student Discipline Policy is communicated to staff, students, parents and guardians and the College community via:

- on SIMON,
- the enrolment process,
- on the Mary MacKillop College website.

Prohibition of Corporal Punishment

It is our policy that corporal punishment is prohibited. The use of any corporal punishment by a staff member is strictly prohibited. Any staff member who breaches this rule will be subject to disciplinary proceedings which may include dismissal.

Behaviour Management

Through the support of our *Student Discipline Policy* Mary MacKillop College seeks to develop a culture of positive discipline by setting clear expectations of students and encouraging positive behaviour. Strategies for developing this culture include:

- clearly setting expectations with respect to student behaviour;
- establishing specific teaching and learning programs;
- communicating expectations with the wider college community;
- acknowledging positive behaviours in a range of ways;
- maintaining records with respect to student behaviour.

Mary MacKillop College complies with the Catholic Education Office Diocese of Sale Pastoral Care Policy which encompasses the above strategies.

Procedural Fairness

Students have a right to procedural fairness in dealings that involve their interests. This includes disciplinary decisions.

The principles of procedural fairness include the right to:

- know what the rules are, and what behaviour is expected of students;
- have decisions determined by a reasonable and unbiased person;
- know the allegations that have been made, and to respond to them;
- be heard before a decision is made; and
- to have a decision reviewed (but not so as to delay an immediate consequences).

Mary MacKillop College is committed to ensuring procedural fairness when disciplining a student.

The Rules and the Expected Standard of Behaviour

Students are expected to abide by the rules of the college, and the directions of teachers and staff.

Examples of written rules that students are expected to follow are dealt with in:

Student Behaviour

Alcohol (Student Use Of)
 Assault (Student Against Student)
 Anti-Bullying Policy
 Anti-Bullying Policy Checklist
 Drugs - Illicit (Student Use Of)
 Information & Communication Technology
 Mobile Phones (Student Use Of)
 Whereabouts Unknown - Every Day Counts
 Student Code of Conduct
 Mary MacKillop College Rules
 Uniform Policy

Consequences

There are a range of consequences that students will face if they breach college rules. These include:

- a range of minor school based sanctions;
- detention;
- suspension (internal and external; and
- expulsion.

As detailed in the *Suspension and Expulsion Policy* a decision to suspend or expel a student may only be made by the Principal.

Individual Behaviour Management Plan

Individual behaviour management plans may be made in certain circumstances.

Behaviour Management Plans will be negotiated between college staff, students and parents/guardians, and will consider the student's:

- age;
- developmental needs; and
- behavioural context.

Desired behaviour/goals of the student will be clearly described. The plan will outline changes required to the learning environment to support the student to modify their behaviour.

The College will refer the student to other support available and review, assess, change and modify the plan as needed.

Implementation

This policy is implemented by:

- staff training and professional development opportunities in behaviour management;
- communicating this policy to the College community;
- monitoring the effectiveness of the policy; and
- reviewing and evaluating the policy annually.

These policies and procedures are communicated to staff, students, guardians, parents and the College community through:

- the parent access module - PAM;
- the Mary MacKillop College website;
- announcements in the newsletter.

Mary MacKillop College has set up a series of compliance tasks on our Assurance System, to ensure that key obligations under the Victorian Registration Standards and CECV Guidelines are managed effectively.

Related Policies

Suspension and Expulsion Policy

College Rules

Anti-Bullying Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy Checklist

Drugs - Illicit (Student Use Of)

Uniform Policy