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1.Objectives - Policy statement

1.1 Good discipline is fundamental to the achievement of government priorities for the public school system. In line with this, schools must have a school discipline policy which is developed in consultation with school community members. The policy must contain four components. These are:

- the discipline code or school rules
- strategies and practices to promote positive student behaviour, including specific strategies to maintain a climate of respect
- strategies and practices to recognise and reinforce student achievement
- strategies and practices to manage inappropriate student behaviour.

All school systems must acknowledge the need to feel happy and safe at school. This continuum ranges from structures of both meeting and not meeting school wide expectations within this foundation.

At Corowa Public School, the Principal will support the implementation of Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) to use a data driven baseline to make informed discipline decisions that support students being CARING, RESPECTFUL & RESPONSIBLE members of the school and wider community. There is an expectation that the lifelong learning embedded in this will be exhibited in our students whether they are at school or not.

1.2 The school discipline policy must:

- be consistent with legislation and reflect government and departmental policy
- incorporate the principles of procedural fairness
- be developed within a strong student welfare context
- reflect the identified needs of the community
- grow from existing policies and practices
- outline expected standards of behaviour
- define the responsibilities of teachers, students and parents.

All school systems must make reference to DET policy and procedures and reflect the teaching & learning of the whole student.

At Corowa Public School the PBL Team will research and collate data to make contextual procedures that embed these reflections and also make it clear and concise for all stakeholders to understand.

1.3 Consistent with the Education Act (1990) and Departmental policy, schools may develop additional components for their school discipline policy to meet local needs.

Should the need arise; the Principal reserves the right to implement structures that will support student access to learning in a safe and nurturing environment.

At Corowa Public School, teacher professional learning and changing clientele make require amendments or the creation of new procedures to support learning.

2.Audience and applicability

2.1 NSW Government schools.

At Corowa Public School, our student enrolment is K-6.

3.Context

3.1 Schools and their communities work together to provide quality learning environments which are:

- inclusive
- safe and secure
- free from bullying, harassment, intimidation and victimisation.

All schools must ensure that students have freedom and security to attend school and be confident that they can realise their potential.

At Corowa Public School we ensure that effective lines of communication are maintained and that all incidences are documented and dealt with to build resilience and empathy in the child. All stakeholders will be aware that all decisions will reflect the DET policy and procedures and are free from prejudice or bias.

3.2 All students and staff have the right to be treated fairly and with dignity in an environment free from disruption, intimidation, harassment, victimisation and discrimination. To achieve this, all schools are expected to maintain high standards of discipline.

Students have the right to learn in a safe and harmonious way.

At Corowa Public School the PBL Team will create systems of positive discipline expectation that are achievable and reflect the needs of all students and also staff in line with WH&S processes.

3.3 When parents enrol their children at public schools they enter into a partnership with the school. This partnership is based on a shared commitment to provide opportunities for students to take responsibility for their actions and to have a greater say in the nature and content of their learning. Collaboration between school staff, students and parent(s) or carer(s) is an important feature of discipline in government schools.

All schools must work with families and staff to build a communication that allows for common and shared responsibility of positive behaviour for learning and associated consequences that may occur.

At Corowa Public School, communication of student behaviour incidences will be communicated through STARS and a database created to track possible causes for the behaviour. This combined approach will allow responsibilities to be shared and owned by all stakeholders.

3.4 The aim of the partnership between school community members and schools is to develop socially responsible young people who are capable of making informed decisions. This is achieved through an effective social, cultural and academic curriculum which caters for the individual needs of students.

All schools must endeavour to embed values and attitudes into their teaching & learning programs where students are required to make judgements about lifelong learning values.

At Corowa Public School, PBL inspired lessons, Big Buddy activities and values and attitudes concepts are embedded into teaching & learning programs. This aims to instil empathy and the ability to make informed decisions regarding themselves and others.

3.5 In implementing the school discipline policy, no student is to be discriminated against, harassed or victimised on any grounds as required by legislation.

All schools must acknowledge and reflect the DDA and Learning Support Policy when making decisions and implementation of the Student Discipline Policy.

At Corowa Public School, students who require behavioural support will be referred to the LST and external agencies, where appropriate. The Principal reserves the right to make informed decisions regarding the overarching welfare of the student.

3.6 This policy is to be implemented consistent with Work Health and Safety (WHS) Policy obligations for ensuring a safe and healthy working and learning environment for staff, students and visitors at schools.

All schools must have an active WH&S policy and procedure process clear to support the implementation of the Student Discipline Policy.

At Corowa Public School, the WH&S policy and procedures are linked explicitly to Student Discipline. The aim of this to ensure all systems and structure enables the mitigation of reoccurrence. The Learning Support Team and PBL Team will be involved in this process with the WH&S committee.

3.7 All schools must develop and implement an Anti-bullying Plan consistent with the Bullying: Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying in Schools Policy

All schools need to develop the Prevention of Bullying Policy consistent with DET guidelines.

At Corowa Public School, the PBL Team will write an inclusive Prevention of Bullying Policy that reflects learning and acknowledging, decreasing and supporting a No, Go, Tell mentality towards bullying.

3.8 The school discipline policy may apply outside of school hours and off school premises where there is a clear and close connection between the school and the conduct of students.

All schools must be clear and concise about their involvement in issues connected to school existing outside school grounds and hours.

At Corowa Public School, communication and investigation will occur and the clear guidelines will be sort to determine whether outside school issues are related to school. Advice from Director and Teachers Federation will be sought regarding individual incidents.

3.9 Document history and details

4. Responsibilities and delegations

4.1 Principals

4.1.1 Principals are accountable through their Directors, Public Schools for ensuring a safe, secure and harmonious work environment for students and staff.

All schools need to be led with strength and confidence and the Principal must ensure that all stakeholders are supported.

At Corowa Public School, the Principal will be actively apart of the WH&S, LST and PBL Team to ensure that there are processes in place to support a school that's caring, respectful and responsible.

4.1.2 Principals are responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring of the school's discipline policy.

All schools must be made aware of and included in the school's discipline policy.

At Corowa Public School, all stages and processes implemented in the school will be communicated to all stakeholders via newsletter, presentation and individual meetings.

4.1.3 Principals are responsible for ensuring that the school's policy is evaluated and reviewed by the school community at least every three years.

All schools must review and plan policy to reflect changing community population and expectations.

At Corowa Public School, the review will be evaluated in 2018.

4.1.4 Principals must ensure that students, staff and parent(s) and carer(s) are provided with opportunities to contribute to the development of the policy and that staff are provided with training and development opportunities in behaviour management.

All schools must include community members, including students, into the creation of student discipline to ensure that it is fully owned and understood.

At Corowa Public School, the PBL Team will coordinate the development and policy roll out so that all stakeholders will be aware of the expectations.

4.1.5 Principals must provide a copy of their school discipline policy to their Directors, Public Schools when the policy is developed or whenever it is reviewed. A copy must also be made available to the families of children enrolled at the school.

All schools need to be open and transparent in the policy for Student Discipline.

At Corowa Public School, the Principal will include a copy of the discipline policy in the student information packs for new enrolling families and the Director Public Education.

4.1.6 Parents and students are to be given a copy of the discipline code or school rules when the policy is developed or whenever it is reviewed.

All schools are to keep the community advised of changes as they occur.

At Corowa Public School, adjustments and changes to the policy will be communicated through the P&C and also through newsletter consultation.

4.1.7 Principals must ensure that all disciplinary actions involving suspension or expulsion from school are managed consistent with the Suspension and Expulsion of School Students Procedures.

All schools must adhere to the disciplinary actions as outlined by the DET.

At Corowa Public School, the suspension and expulsion procedures will not be altered or changed in any way.

4.2 Parents

4.2.1 Parents are expected to support the school in the implementation of the school discipline policy.

Parents must acknowledge that the student discipline policy is aimed at supporting the entire student body and the other members of the school community.

At Corowa Public School, there is an expectation that the parents of students enrolled and others visiting the school, will acknowledge that consequences relating to the adherence of the student discipline policy are in the long term best interests of developing the student into a strong member of society and are to respect the decisions as collaborative.

4.3 Teachers

4.3.1 Teachers are expected to participate in the development of the school discipline policy and to support its effective implementation.

All staff working in NSW Public Schools must support the policy implementation and provide open mindedness towards its successful outcomes.

At Corowa Public School, the staff are all committed to a successful Positive Behaviour for Learning atmosphere. They actively seek professional learning and open lines of communication with stakeholders to aim for proactive prevention.

4.4 Students

4.4.1 Students are expected to follow the discipline code or school rules and to comply with staff directions regarding discipline and appropriate behaviour.

Enrolled students and visiting students to schools in NSW are expected to be respectful and follow the rules of schools they are in.

At Corowa Public School, the students are provided with a weekly "muster" to refine and revisit expectations regularly and students that are visiting are also briefed on expectations of our school. Students are expected to follow directions and engage in positive behaviour.

4.4.2 Students will show respect for teachers, fellow students, other staff and school visitors and not engage in any form of harassment, victimisation or intimidation.

All students are expected to be respectful and caring towards all members of the school community irrespective of their role or position in the school.

At Corowa Public School, students will be expected to work towards a common shared understanding of Care, Respect and Responsibility to all. Our STARS system will track instances where students have not kept these expectations and actions taken accordingly.

5. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements

5.1 Directors, Public Schools will monitor the local implementation of this policy and will report to their Executive Directors, Public Schools.

5.2 The Director, Student Engagement and Interagency Partnerships will monitor the state-wide implementation of this policy.

6. Contact

Leader, Social Inclusion, Ph: (02) 9244 5189.