

Sacred Heart College



Yarrowonga

PC 27.0

Suspension Policy

First ratified by Leadership	10/9/2019
Responsibility for currency	Leadership
Year for next major review	2022
Record of revisions	

RATIONALE

This Privacy Policy sets out how the College manages suspension of a student from normal classes or a school activity.

COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have the right to feel safe and to be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Sacred Heart College:

- Is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities are not discriminated against and are accommodated to participate in education on the same basis as their peers,
- acknowledges and responds to the diverse needs, identities and strengths of all students,
- students with disabilities and additional needs are treated with respect and are involved in making decisions about their education
- will make reasonable adjustments, where necessary, to accommodate students with disabilities or additional needs.

A positive classroom environment is fostered contributing to positive attitudes and beliefs about disability, positive learning, engagement and wellbeing outcomes for all students.

IMPLEMENTATION

A student can be suspended if, whilst attending school, travelling to or from school or engaged in any school activity away from the school (including travel to or from that activity), they:

- Behave in such a way as to pose a danger, whether actual, perceived or threatened, to the health, safety or wellbeing of any person;
- Cause significant damage to or destruction of property;
- Commit or attempts to commit or is knowingly involved in the theft of property;
- Possess, use or sell or deliberately assist another person to possess, use or sell illicit substances or weapons;
- Fail to comply with any clear and reasonable instruction of a staff member so as to pose a danger, whether actual, perceived or threatened, to the health, safety or wellbeing of any person;
- Consistently engage in behaviour that vilifies, defames, degrades or humiliates another person based on age; breastfeeding; gender; identity; impairment; industrial activity; lawful sexual activity; marital status; parental status; physical features; political belief or activity; pregnancy; race; religious belief or activity; sexual orientation; personal association (whether as a relative or otherwise) with a person who is identified by reference to any of the above attributes;
- Consistently behave in an unproductive manner that interferes with the wellbeing, safety or educational opportunities of any other student.

Nature of Suspension

Suspensions may be internal or external. Internal suspensions involve the students attending school as normal, however, they undertake their classes in an alternative setting, and will be provided work to complete. Typically, this would be in a meeting room allocated by the Principal or Deputy Principal. The student would have similar break times for recess and lunch but would take these either side of the scheduled breaktime from the rest of the school. External suspensions involve the students staying home from school for the determined time of the suspension.

Length of Suspension

Suspensions may be of 1 day to 5 days duration depending on the nature of the behaviour.

Discernment of Suspension

The following considerations will be taken into account when determining the nature and length of suspension:

- The behaviour for which the student is being suspended
- The educational needs of the student
- Any disability or illness, including mental illness, of the student
- The age of the student
- The residential and social circumstances of the students
- If the student is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander it may be appropriate to contact the Diocesan Support Officer.

As part of the discernment College Leadership has considered and ensured that:

- The student has been given an opportunity to be heard
- Any documentation provided by the student and or their relevant person has been taken into account in making the decision
- Other forms of action to address the behaviour which may lead to suspension have been considered.

Communication

Once the suspension discernment process has been completed, the following details need to be communicated to the student and their primary carer:

- The reason for suspension
- The school days on which the suspension will occur
- Where the suspension will occur (i.e. in-school or external suspension)
- Contact details of support services if appropriate.

Resumption from Suspension

Prior to a student returning from suspension, they will meet with the nominated member of College leadership to facilitate a positive transition back into the classroom.

REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed at least every three years.

Initially Ratified: 10 Sept 2019

Next Review to be Completed by: 2022