

Student Discipline Policy



Source of Obligation

The ETR Act (s 4.3.1(6)) (CECV Guidelines ref 4.5) requires 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 the College manages student discipline.

Prohibition of Corporal Punishment

It is our policy that corporal punishment is prohibited.

The use of 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

Lavalla Catholic College seeks to develop a culture of restorative practices 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 from informal verbal acknowledgement through to structured merit awards
- maintaining records with respect to student behaviour.

The College has developed a policy which is consistent with the CEM Policy Pastoral Care of Students 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 principals 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
- to have a decision reviewed (but not so as to deny immediate restorative action).

The 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)
Bullying Prevention & Intervention
Cyber Safety
Drugs – Illicit (Student Use Of)
Information & Communication Technology
Mobile Phones (Student Use Of)
Truancy
Uniform Policy

Consequences

There are a range of consequences that students will face if they breach College rules, or are disobedient. These include:

- warnings or reprimands (verbal and written)
- time outs
- community service
- cancellation of privileges
- withdrawal from College activities
- at home reflection
- suspension of enrolment
- termination of enrolment

A decision to suspend the enrolment of a student may only be made by the Principal, or by the Deputy Principal acting within pre-agreed guidelines.

Decisions to terminate the enrolment of a student may only be made by the Principal.

Procedures for Suspension or Termination of Enrolment

Lavalla Catholic College has developed specific procedures that must be followed when considering the suspension or termination of the enrolment of a student. Refer to our **Suspension or Termination of Enrolment Policy** and **Exclusion Procedures**.

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
- 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
- reviewing and evaluating the policy annually.

This Policy and other behaviour management policies and procedures including steps for managing suspension or termination of enrolment are communicated to staff, students, guardians, parents and the College community through:

- the Lavalla Catholic College website
- CompliSpace
- announcements in the College newsletter.

The College has set up a series of compliance tasks in CompliSpace Assurance to ensure that key obligations under the Victorian Registration Standards and CECV Guidelines are managed effectively.

Related Policies

Suspension or Termination of Enrolment Policy

Student Code of Conduct

Bullying Prevention & Intervention

Drugs (Illicit) (Student Use Of)

Uniform Brochure