ST JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL
TWEED HEADS

DISCIPLINE POLICY
2015

Date issued: March 2013
Date to be reviewed: 2015

RATIONALE:
School discipline is the function of the school community through a system of relationships, rules, rewards and sanctions designed to develop self-discipline within children. It is concerned with the needs of the individual child and his/her emotional wellbeing. At St Joseph’s School we try to ensure that:

- Children are aware of the discipline procedures and know what is required of them in regards to acceptable behaviour
- Teachers are firm, consistent and fair in their application of discipline

We recognise the value of praise and rewards as a means of encouraging acceptable behaviour. We need the support of parents in implementing our discipline policy.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES:

- All students, staff and parents are to be made aware of the school rules
- Safety and respect for self, for others and property
- It is the responsibility of each member of staff to carry out the discipline policy
- The program of disciplinary action will be sequential, based on positive reinforcement and logical consequences
- Detention is done the following day. Parents will be informed of the Detention by phone or note.
- The final decision of the policy regarding discipline rests with the Principal.
- Serious cases will be referred to the Catholic School Office.
- N.B. The use of corporal punishment is prohibited at all times and in all situations.
POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT:
Positive reinforcement and correctional procedures will be followed as outlined in the attached Behavioural Management Plan.

When a child chooses not to follow school rules - the following strategies will be implemented as outlined in the Behavioural Management Plan.

The Plan is designed to encompass the following disciplinary actions.

- Mild reprimand/warning/conference with child and teacher or member of the executive team
- Encouragement towards self discipline and responsibility
- Minor consequences. (eg time out/loss of privileges etc)
- Removal from playground for major incidents or continual misdemeanours E.g. Hands On, Bullying, swearing, lack of respect for teachers and adults.
- Principal may be notified and parents contacted if necessary as per plan
- Removal of major privileges eg. camps, excursions, sports, representative activities, digital technologies – Principal involvement will occur
- Following interview with parents, referral to care networks may be deemed necessary by the Principal
- School or home Suspension as appropriate in consultation with Diocesan authorities.
- Expulsion – As per CSO procedures and in consultation with Parish Priest.

N.B. The Discipline Policy of St. Joseph’s Primary School expressly prohibits the administering of any form of corporal punishment at any time by any member of the school community be they staff or parent.

CONSEQUENCES WILL:

- Be applied calmly
- Be appropriate and just
- Be part of a plan
- Be as immediate as possible
- Be consistent
- Reflect Christian values.

This Discipline Policy will be reviewed as needed.

SCHOOL PRIDE:
As a school we are proud of our tradition and wear our uniform with pride in accordance with the School Uniform Policy.

In addition:

- The aesthetic appearance of the school environment is important and achieved through:
  - Ensuring that all members of the school community place garbage in the bins provided.
  - Encouraging the natural beauty of the school gardens by not playing or walking on them
  - Students are to be responsible for keeping all areas clean and tidy
- Students are encouraged to actively participate in community based activities eg. Anzac Day March, Eisteddfods, Tournament of Minds, Excursions etc
SAFETY:
All children at St. Joseph’s have the right to be safe.
- Behaviours that infringe upon the safety of themselves and others will be dealt with in accordance with the Behaviour Management Plan, the Road Safety, Supervision and Workplace, 0 Health and Safety Policies

PLEASE NOTE:
Staff has a duty of care to every child at the school and therefore may be required to restrain a child for the child’s own safety, for the safety of another child or adult or for self protection.

In cases where a teacher or supervising adult is required to undertake reasonable action the following steps will occur.
- The minimum restraint required to achieve a safe environment shall be used.
- The teacher who exercised physical restraint will notify the Principal immediately with a verbal account of the incident and names of any witnesses.
- The teacher’s verbal or written report will be filed with the Principal.
- Any such incident will be dealt with according to the School’s Discipline Policy.
- Teachers will be trained in physical restraint PART techniques.