

Student Behaviour Policy

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INTRODUCTION

At Groves we value and emphasise the concept of discipline as being an internal control mechanism which comes from within that helps us to overcome and achieve success. We believe to act in a manner that seeks to love God with all of your heart, soul, strength and mind; and, to love your neighbour as yourself, surpasses all external forces that aim to motivate or control a person.

We understand that at different stages of life people may need increased support from others to develop this concept of discipline and that not all people at all times select to treat others well or even to love themselves or to choose to do right rather than wrong. Ultimately we believe it is only through understanding grace and the help of the Holy Spirit that people can hope to overcome their weaknesses and failings on a daily basis. God's grace frees us to overcome and to be our best.

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:5-8)

Our classroom slogan to remind us about the need to develop discipline is:

We are here together to learn in a respectful, responsible and safe manner so that we can help each other to be the best we can be.

DISCIPLINE DEVELOPMENT IS CRUCIAL FOR A SUCCESSFUL LIFE

The development of discipline [self-control and personal ownership of behaviour] is a crucial aspect of character development. At Groves, the teaching and learning process involved in discipline emphasises and provides suitable challenges, initiatives and models for students to follow. We know discipline increases positive learning opportunities, and enhances co-operative and individual learning. It creates a safe, orderly, caring and supportive school environment. Families and teachers need to support students in the process, thereby, strengthening them to authentic adulthood and liberty.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED

We expect active participation from all College members to help Groves be a positive place of learning, caring and belonging. We need everyone to play their part in promoting learning by acting in a respectful, responsible and safe manner.

DEALING WITH OTHERS

People with different wants, needs and opinions do not always seek win-win outcomes. Because of greed and other negative attitudes people cause issues and even hurt others. It is important to help students to be able to deal with the conflict that comes from these negative situations. Rather than teaching children to act as victims or to be overwhelmed, we need to empower students to

problem-solve and work through these issues. This will equip students and give them confidence to deal with issues in the future.

INTERVENTION TECHNIQUES USED AT GROVES

We aim to affirm positive behaviour by thanking students and acknowledging their contribution.

We follow up poor or irresponsible behaviour with a range of consequences. These include:

- Logging behaviour to monitor for negative patterns
- Cool off time
- Verbal rebuke
- Impositions such as extra work, time out, loss of privileges, school service regimes, and suspension.
- Our aim, as far as possible, is to restore students and working relationships: that is, people can find forgiveness, grow in discipline and move forward ready to be more of the person God desires them to be. To do this well students:
 - Acknowledge and apologise for their negative behaviour, and the impact it had.
 - Accept consequences of their negative behaviour, including making restitution.
 - Undertake reform by explaining how they will act better in the future.

EXTREME OR ONGOING NEGATIVE BEHAVIOUR WILL RESULT IN THE TERMINATION OF ENROLMENT

Sadly, if a student continues to act contrary to the rules of the community (please note, some actions warrant immediate expulsion from the College) then the student's enrolment will be terminated. Where discipline may involve expulsion of the student, the Principal or acting Principal will not expel the student until the allegations of misconduct have been put to the student or to the student's representative and the student has been allowed an adequate opportunity to respond.

DISCIPLINE: COMMON QUESTIONS

Are parents notified of poor behaviour by their children?

Teachers contact parents when they notice a pattern of negative behaviour or a particular behaviour is of a worrying nature.

DO TEACHERS USE DETENTION?

Yes, teachers may request students (individuals or groups) to remain out of an activity or break time to complete work or as a consequence for poor behaviour. It is not our practice to keep the whole class in at Groves. As far as possible it is not our style to put negative consequences on those who do not deserve them.

TIME OUT OF CLASS.

Teachers may consult with coordinators to arrange time out of class for a range of behaviour and academic catch up reasons. This would normally be less than a whole day.

IS INTERNAL SUSPENSION USED?

Yes, from time to time senior staff members with approval of the Head of School (for situations of more than one day) may use internal suspension for a period of time where they deem it necessary for the good order of the college and/or as a consequence. Internal suspension would normally be no more than five days.

IS EXTERNAL SUSPENSION USED?

Yes, from time to time senior staff members may use external suspension for a period of time where they deem it necessary for the good order of the college and/or as a consequence.

- Coordinators may send children home for the day following serious breaches of rules and also to allow time for investigations to take place.
- Coordinators in consultation with the Head of Schools may suspend students for up to three days.
- Head of Schools may suspend students for a period of time of up to five days.
- Head of Schools in consultation with the Head of College may suspend students for more than five days.
- School-Home communication would need to take place in every situation.

CAN A CHILD OR A PARENT ASK FOR A REVIEW OF A CONSEQUENCE?

Our hope is that by the time a consequence is set all parties have at least understood the situation. In the rare situation where a mistake has been made or a consequence is believed to be too small or too much, students and parents may discuss the matter with the senior staff member they initially were contacted by and an additional senior staff member can be appointed to review the case.

FINALLY WE REMEMBER THE WISDOM OF SCRIPTURE

“Those who love discipline love knowledge, but they who hate reproof are stupid.” (Proverbs 12:1)

“All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.” (Hebrews 12:11)