

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT POLICY

Rationale

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the means and motivation for inviting, encouraging and developing positive student behaviours. By nature, we do not always show the love, respect and responsibility to each other that is necessary to create such an environment. Hence, we need some guidelines concerning behavior that all members of the school community know and understand, accepting Christ's command "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34)

Definition

Behaviour Management at Vineyard Lutheran School is the process that staff and students work through to help them learn about and modify inappropriate behaviours (weak choices) and to encourage and reinforce positive behaviours (strong choices).

Aims

At Vineyard, all people in our community deserve respect and have the right to:

- Feel Safe at school
- Teach and learn
- Be treated with dignity and respect
- Feel that they belong

The goals of the student behaviour management program are:

- to assist students to develop positive relationships.
- to assist students to develop effective social skills.
- to maintain a school social environment in which each student's right to security, learning, personal growth and self-esteem is affirmed and assured.
- to assist students in the development of self-discipline.

We look forward to all behaviour supporting these outcomes.

Policy Procedure and Implementation

1. Community Responsibilities

School staff, students, and their parents/caregivers share the responsibility for managing behaviour. Teacher, parent and students shall meet where there is a continued pattern of inappropriate behaviour.

All students have responsibilities for themselves and to others and need to be supported and taught how to accept these responsibilities.

Free and open communication between all parties concerned will minimise the occurrence of conflict or misunderstanding.

2. Student Responsibilities

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Any person charged with implementation of this policy may, in circumstances which require special consideration, waiver from the procedures set out in this policy so as to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all relevant persons at the time of implementation, whilst ensuring the spirit of this Policy is not compromised.

Behaviour occurs as a result of students making choices, conscious or unconscious, weak or strong.

Students need to understand that all behaviour, responsible or irresponsible, has consequences.

Students need to know and accept the consequences that follow the behaviour.

Students should make themselves aware of the school goals and at all times use their best judgement in abiding by them.

3. Parent / Caregiver Responsibilities

It is expected that parents will accept the standards of behaviour required of the children in this school and the consequences as outlined in school policy when children fail to meet them. The school will determine the degree of seriousness of the various misdemeanours based on its expectations of children belonging to a Christian school. When you accept a place for your child at Vineyard you accept the Student Behaviour Management Policy and make commitment to uphold it.

4. Staff Responsibilities

Teachers are to regard the statement to parents on student behaviour management in the school as the basis upon which they fulfill their responsibilities in this matter. While it is recognised that unacceptable behaviour needs to be dealt with on an individual basis, we will attempt where possible, to adopt a common approach to dealing with unsatisfactory student behaviour.

- When dealing with unsatisfactory behaviour, teachers place heavy emphasis on counselling students and the process of keeping parents informed.
- The keeping of records by teachers will occur in cases where students display misbehaviour or where serious offences occur.
- The expectations and consequences of behaviour should be consistent, fair and in accord with our Mission Statement.
- Teachers are responsible for dealing with the unacceptable behaviour situation as immediately as possible, and ensure that, when dealing with a child they help them to understand the situation as best as possible.
- Teachers are responsible for setting up their own behaviour display in their classroom, and to make sure all students have reviewed and have understood the rules at the beginning of each term.
- Each teacher will use a 5 step system. The 5 steps and the school goals should be displayed in each classroom.
- Each teacher will use positive reinforcement to encourage the use of responsible strong choices, in the classroom and in the school yard.

5. Principal's Responsibility

To ensure that

- the safety of the students and staff is maintained
- a positive learning environment is supported and nurtured in all classrooms, supported by positive behaviour management strategies
- appropriate support is provided to staff and students in the areas of behaviour modification

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The school recognises that there may be a number of causes for unacceptable behaviour. Where particular issues relating to long term behavioural problems are identified, the school will:-

- Where appropriate, seek outside expert assistance to endeavour to identify and manage such behavioural problems
- Seek to put in place a program suited to the individual needs of the particular child.
- Seek to work cooperatively with parents and/or medical advisors (and where appropriate other persons) in developing and implementing such individual programs.
- Where such individual programs are put in place, the school expects and requires the assistance of the child/ren and family/ies in question in implementing such a program.
- If behaviours are deemed to be inappropriate and put at risk the safety of other children or bring the school's name into disrepute, the school reserves the rights to suspend or expel a student. Usually suspension will mean either
 - In school suspension (up to 2 days)
 - At home suspension (up to 5 days)
 - Expulsion – the termination of an enrolment. If parents and caregivers are not prepared to assist the school in providing a safe and happy environment and recognising inappropriate behaviour, the Principal reserves the right to terminate any enrolment. This may also apply if parents fail to or are unwilling to support the school in corrective behaviour programs.

References / Related Policies

Award Selection Policy
Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policies

Appendices:

VLS Behaviour Management Procedures 2011

Development / Review Team	Teaching Staff / School Council
Policy Approved	17/10/2011
Review Period	2 year
Previous Review Dates	2010 October 2012- Reviewed and passed by Council
Next Review Date	October 2014

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