

POLICY: PUPIL BEHAVIOUR / DISCIPLINE

RATIONALE:

A child's behaviour very much affects his/her own ability to learn and impacts upon the learning opportunities of others. Pupils, parents/caregivers and staff need to agree upon, contribute to, and understand standards of pupil behaviour expected at Hunterville School. Similarly so with regards to possible consequences of breaches of the same.

PURPOSE:

1. To state very clearly Hunterville School's stance on pupil behaviour and discipline.
2. To bring about greater accountability for pupils' behaviour and to promote consistency of clearly defined standards by staff.
3. To raise our expectations of pupil behaviour by responding firmly and fairly to instances of inappropriate behaviour.
4. To highlight the rights of pupils and staff at Hunterville School, i.e.
 - a) All pupils have as a fundamental right, both in class and about the school, to be safe and happy as they go about their proper business. They should not be made to suffer others who choose to display negative behaviours, restricting their learning opportunities. Pupils have the right to not be subjected to bullying (physical or emotional) nor other forms of unacceptable and disruptive behaviour by others.
 - b) The BOT as employers have a legal obligation to their employees (i.e. school staff) to provide a workplace that is safe and secure. This specifically includes staff rights as employees to be free from physical and verbal abuse, persistent non compliance with requests to pupils, etc.

GUIDELINES:

1. Staff are instructed to take zero tolerance towards the following behaviours:
 - Swearing, discourtesy, rudeness, including 'back chat';
 - pupils 'putting down', teasing, ridiculing, etc., other pupils;
 - standover/bully type tactics, hitting, pushing, punching etc;
 - stealing, wilful damage to property, disruptiveness in class, etc.
2. Consequences of unacceptable behaviour may include:
 - verbal reprimand by teacher
 - apology
 - where appropriate the student involved will be referred to a student mediator for initial action.
 - spoken to by assistant/deputy principal or principal
 - phone call/note to parents
 - sweeping courts/picking up litter etc.
 - lunchtime detention
 - in-school suspension: sent to work in another classroom or under Principal's supervision
 - banned from school activity (e.g. class trip, disco, sports event, enjoyable activity)
 - parents asked to supervise their child at home during a lunch hour. (eg in instances of repeated or severely unacceptable playground behaviour)
 - parent supervision: parent requested to attend school to supervise their child.
 - 'standing down' of a pupil. (Where under Ministry of Education regulations a Principal can formally 'stand down' a pupil and that pupil will not be allowed to attend school for a period of up to five days at the discretion of the Principal.)
 - 'suspension' of a pupil. (Where under Ministry of Education regulation a Principal can formally suspend a pupil and that pupil will not be able to attend school indefinitely. The BOT must meet within seven school days of the suspension to either lift that or extend the suspension.)
3. Whenever a 'victim' is involved (e.g. a hitting, stealing episode) that child's parents will be informed.

4. Parents will be notified in writing:
 - a) for every 'Room 28' (lunch detention) referral. Letter signed by parent and returned to school to verify receipt of.
 - b) For incidents of significantly unacceptable behaviour where Room 28 was, for any reason, not appropriate. Letter signed by parent & returned to school to verify receipt of.
 - c) For three such instances in any term (a or b above). Letter will request a meeting with the parents.
 - d) All R28 letters will be followed up by a phone call from the referring teacher.
5. In all cases where parents are contacted over a child's inappropriate behaviour, that child will be counselled by a senior staff member with regards to behaviour expectations at this school, making sensible choices, how best to "put things right" etc.
6. Where repeat offences appear to be heading a pupil towards stand down or suspension, appropriate intervention programmes/strategies must be implemented. These may include:
 - close/regular parent liaison
 - contracts/reward incentives
 - behaviour management programme
 - referral to Specialist Education Services
 - referral to Resource Teachers of Learning & Behaviour
 - etc.
7. There may be a single offence of such magnitude that stand down or suspension is the most appropriate course of first action. This would include serious assault, serious abuse of teacher, etc.,
8. Although this policy necessarily spells out examples of unacceptable behaviour and the consequence of such behaviour, our school's major thrust on pupil behaviour shall remain on positive reinforcement, including:
 - highlighting positive behaviour and rewarding it
 - addressing unacceptable behaviour, not the person
 - building self esteem amongst all pupils
 - pursuing the principle of "treat others as you would like to be treated"
 - certificates in class and at assemblies
 - 'treasure chest' rewards for consistently positive behaving pupils
 - a friendly word/comment wherever possible
 - the delivery of values based programmes such as Cool Schools and Peer Mediation.

CONCLUSION:

It is neither practical nor desirable to have set in concrete rigid consequences/responses for certain behaviours as there are always infinite degrees of transgression.

However this policy should assist in providing a clear statement that Hunterville School, its pupils, parents and staff, all demand high standards of behaviour to support the best possible learning outcomes for all its participants.

This policy instructs the school to deal fairly but firmly with inappropriate behaviour as outlined.

Last reviewed July 2015