

Student Discipline Policy

Vision Statement	The purpose of New Hope School is to provide a Christian educational community as a centre of teaching, learning and serving excellence, founded on Biblically-based beliefs, values and behaviour.
Rationale	<p>All communities require standards of personal and interpersonal behaviour to be clearly stated, understood, and adhered to in order to preserve relationships and allow effective growth and development of the individuals. Personal decisions about behaviour necessarily bring consequences. Good decisions should lead to positive consequences while poor decisions should bring negative consequences.</p> <p>With the purpose of strengthening the community this policy will strengthen understandings about how we should live together, will consider the needs of each individual in our community, and will build or restore relationships to bring new levels of commitment. The result of implementing this policy should be the disciplining of young people to behave in ways that are Christ-like to others and themselves, that show maturity in their response to authority and in their respect within relationships, and that show commitment to the welfare of the community.</p>
Source of Obligation	The NSW Registration Manual (3.7.1 and 3.7.2) requires the School to have policies relating to discipline of students attending the School that are based on principles of procedural fairness and that do not permit corporal punishment of students.
Discipline Policy	<p>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.</p> <p>Discipline is necessary to ensure the safety and welfare of all our students, teachers and staff and to provide a conducive learning environment.</p> <p>This policy sets the framework through which New Hope School manages student discipline.</p>
Strategies to Promote Good Discipline	<p>The School seeks to develop a culture of positive discipline by setting clear expectations of students and encouraging positive behaviour. Strategies for developing this culture include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• clearly setting behaviour expectations• establishing specific teaching and learning programs• communicating expectations with the wider School 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.
Prohibition of Corporal Punishment	<p>It is our policy that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• we prohibit corporal punishment• we do not explicitly or implicitly sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons, including parents, to enforce discipline at the School. <p>The use of any 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.</p>
Procedural Fairness	<p>Students have a right to procedural fairness in dealings that involve their interests. This includes disciplinary decisions.</p> <p>The principles of procedural fairness include the right of students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• know what the rules are and what behaviour is expected of them• have decisions determined by a reasonable and unbiased person• be informed of, and have an opportunity to respond to, any allegations against them• be heard before a decision is made• have a decision reviewed (but not to delay an immediate punishment). <p>New Hope School is committed to ensuring procedural fairness when disciplining a student.</p>
School Rules and Expected Standards of Behaviour	<p>Students are expected to abide by the rules of the school, and the directions of teachers and staff.</p> <p>Examples of written rules that students are expected to follow are dealt with in:</p> <p>Student Code of Conduct</p> <p>Bullying Prevention and Intervention</p> <p>Drugs - Illicit (Student Use Of)</p>
Consequences	<p>There are a range of consequences that students will face if they breach School rules or are disobedient. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• warnings or reprimands (verbal or written)• time outs• clean up duties• cancellation of privileges• withdrawal from School activities• lunch time detentions• after school detentions• suspension• expulsion. <p>Details about procedures in relation to discipline are outlined in the JS Staff Handbook, MS Staff Handbook and SS Staff Handbook.</p> <p>The decision to suspend a student may only be made by the Head of School, Assistant Principal or Principal. The decision to expel a student</p>

may only be made by the Principal.

**Procedures for Suspension,
Expulsion and Exclusion**

New Hope School has developed specific procedures that must be followed when considering the suspension or expulsion of a student. Refer to our **Student Enrolment Policy**.

Implementation

Details in relation to the Discipline procedures in the School are found in the **JS Staff Handbook**, **MS Staff Handbook**, and **SS Staff Handbook**.