



Mulga Street Primary School

Discipline Policy

All children have the right to learn and each teacher to teach in a safe, caring and orderly learning environment so that students will reach their full potential.

We encourage and expect children to behave in an acceptable way at all times.

Common School Rules

- Children / students must remain inside the boundary fences and all students must seek permission from the teachers on duty (or the Principal's nominee) before leaving the school grounds during school hours.
- During play times, children must be outside unless told otherwise by the teacher on duty.
- Play must be safe, hence piggybacks, Red Rover, Brandy, Play fighting, bike riding, roller blading, skating on school grounds, running in dangerous areas, kicking balls on the asphalt are not allowed.
- Certain areas are considered to be out of bounds (up trees, the staff car park, behind buildings)
- Students are expected to avoid spitting and the use of chewing/bubble gum.
- Students are expected to take great care of all personal and public property.
- Everyday courtesies and good manners are expected at all times.
- Students are expected to show respect for themselves and others.
- The school dress code must be adhered to.

School Rules apply

- On school buses
- In the classrooms
- When participating in school events
- In the school yard whenever there is an official school function and/or between the hours of 8.00am and 6.00pm during school term time.

Classroom Behaviour

The achievement of a positive learning environment is the most important thing we can do at the school.

A positive learning environment means:

- We can stay on task and not be disturbed
- We can feel safe
- We can have our say at an appropriate time and no-one is unfairly treated

Classroom values and codes of conduct are negotiated within each class, especially in 2005 with the Quality Start initiative, so exact wording of these may vary from class to class.

Each child's classroom teacher will communicate this to you at Acquaintance Night each year and students will have copies of their own.

Examples of Unacceptable Behaviour

- Repeated lack of regard for class or school rules
- Harassment of any kind
- Physical / Verbal / Sexual / Racist abuse
- Behaviour that is illegal, unlawful or threatens safety, well being and good order of the school community
- Threatened or perpetrated violence
- Interference with the rights of a student to learn or a teacher to teach
- Persistent or willful inattention or indifference to school work

Consequences

To achieve a positive learning environment teachers will encourage and support appropriate behaviour in the classroom. However, to support this teachers need a consistent set of consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

If inappropriate behaviour is demonstrated, we hope students will quickly think and then do the right thing if it continues a set of consequences based on the following guidelines will apply:

1. Reminder - Students will be given a reminder about their inappropriate behaviour
2. First Time Out - Students will be moved to an isolated area within the class for 5-10 minutes to reflect on their behaviour. Teachers will negotiate with students about their return.
3. Second Time Out - Students moved to the Buddy Class from up to 30 minutes or the next break ie recess, lunch or home time. Students may or may not have

work to do. In 2005 discussions will be carried out about using the catch up room for students who go to the Buddy Class to catch up work. Teachers negotiate the return of the student at these breaks.

4. Third Time Out - The Thinking Room
Students spend a negotiated period of time in the Thinking Room or the corridor. In 2005 a form will be sent home to inform that this stage has been reached.
5. Fourth Time - Internal Suspension
- Internal suspension for 1-2 days
 - Behaviour change negotiated
 - Re-entry plan negotiated
 - Parent/caregiver notified and involved in process if they wish.
 - Interagency Referral Team contacted
 - Documentation must take place and be signed by the Principal
6. Fifth Time - Suspension (up to five days)
Conference conducted with parent/caregivers, teacher, Principal. Students and Interagency Referral Team.
- Re-entry plan negotiated
 - Length of suspension determined
 - Documentation must take place and be signed by the Principal

Exclusion

If the total number of suspensions for a student is up to 15 days SPREAD over/up to four occasions within a school year then the Interagency Referral Team must be involved to determine future action which could include exclusion from this school.

Take Home Procedure (Immediate Suspension)

If a student is unwilling or unable to comply with the above or is a danger to themselves, staff or other children then the take home procedure (SUSPENSION) will apply immediately.

1. The Principal/Nominee will contact parent/caregiver or emergency contact person to organise for an adult to collect the student for the remainder of

- the day. If there is no adult to collect the child then the Police will be called or internal suspension in front office takes place until parents collect.
2. When the student returns a re-entry plan and behaviour change plan must be negotiated before returning to class.

Immediate Exclusion

If the severity of the unacceptable behaviour warrants a stronger and immediate response the student may be excluded straight away.

Exclusion from school will be between four and ten weeks or for the remainder of the term or semester. During that time, the student will be required to complete an alternative education program which may be at another school, by home schooling, through the Open Access College, at a withdrawal centre, a work program or a combination of these.

Before exclusion, there is a conference at which the student and parent/caregiver will work with the Interagency Referral Manager to develop a set of behaviour and learning goals to be achieved during the period of exclusion.

Yard Behaviour

Behaviour Code

Mulga Street Primary School is a caring and safe place for students, staff and visitors.

Our values are:

- Respect and care for our property and school environment
- Always show respect for students, staff and visitors
- We will work towards creating a yard environment, which is free from harassment, violence and other harmful or offensive behaviours.

Our Yard Code of Conduct includes:

- Walking on pathways and around buildings – No Running
- Keeping our yard clean – No Littering
- Wearing a hat at all times in Terms 1, 2, 3 and 4. – No Hat go to Area 1
- Playing games that are safe and staying in designated play areas
- Using play areas and equipment appropriately – No sports equipment in Area 1

- Carrying out school adult's instructions
- Caring for other people and their property. No fighting, no rough play, no bullying, no stealing/damaging property, no harassment and no throwing or playing with dangerous objects
- Showing respect to other students, staff and visitors. No abusive or inappropriate language and behaviour that harms or offends others
- Staying within the school grounds

Consequences for not following our yard Code of Conduct include:

- Time on the Blue Seat
- Litter Collection
- Removal from the area to the Front Office
- Confiscation of the item involved
- Counselling and reminders
- Walking with the Teacher
- Yard Time Out an official sheet filled in

If major rules are broken the following consequences apply:

1. A session in the Yard Time Out Room.
The purpose of this is to remove the student from the yard, to allow them time to reflect on their behaviour. The Teacher on duty in the Time Out room will provide some preliminary discussion in relation to working through student problems.
2. Incidents of fighting, harassment/bullying that have led to yard time out will be followed up by the Counsellor.
3. Options if repeat occurrence
 - withdrawal from play for a period of time
 - negotiate a student development plan with parent and student, including interviews
 - restricted playtime
 - take home at lunch time
 - referral to the DECS Interagency Behaviour Support Unit
 - Suspension or exclusion as outlined by the Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) Policy

Staff Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of staff members and supervising adults to ensure:

- That students are aware of school rules and the expectations of a task or activity
- That students have the skills and understandings, are capable and competent in understanding the task or activity
- Prompt and thorough attention to yard duty and class/group supervision – if you are called away for an emergency, please arrange for a responsible adult to supervise the students until you return
- That children are provided with appropriate conflict resolution skills activities and protective behaviour strategies
- That the play children are involved in will not result in conflict or injury
 - ensure that all parties know the rules of the game
 - give children strategies for ensuring that teams are fair so a good game will develop
 - intercede in rough or antisocial play
- That the Principal is informed of all behaviours that result in time out and that a record is made of same in the time out book

School, Class and Bus Rules must be clearly displayed in all class rooms.

NOTE: If a student absconds:

1. Inform the Principal / Teacher in Charge
2. Make a quick check of the school grounds
3. Inform the parent/caregiver, discuss the incident and student's return to school.
4. If parent cannot be contacted, contact the Police who will search and return the student to school.

Rewards

Awards are presented at Assembly to focus upon the positive things students do eg Young Achievers.

Individual teachers designate rewards appropriate to their class age and maturity eg special time on the computer, in another class activity, early minutes, working with chosen support personnel, prizes etc.