

ST PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL POLICY STATEMENT DISCIPLINE

1. Rationale

The Discipline Policy at St Pius X High School evolves from the Pastoral Care Policy insofar as each seeks to promote a respectful, secure and healthy learning environment in which students grow to be discerning, self-disciplined and contributing members of society. The Restorative Justice Policy at St Pius is an essential element of the Pastoral Care Policy and guides the application of all discipline at the School.

Society in general requires that there are consequences for anti-social or otherwise inappropriate actions and behaviours. Disciplinary measures such as Detention and Suspension are not used as punishment for punishment's sake. They are discipline structures that allow the School: (1) to remind students that there are consequences for inappropriate actions; (2) to provide students with valuable "time-out" in which to consider their actions and make decisions about how best to alter their behaviour and repair any hurt they may have caused; and (3) to provide students with time to consider their goals and appropriate pathways by which these goals may be achieved. Applied within a culture of restorative justice, and as a part of a multifaceted Pastoral Care program, these disciplinary measures assist students to develop an awareness of their rights and responsibilities and a level of self-discipline commensurate with their age.

As members of the St Pius X community, students have a right to:

- Enjoy a safe and healthy environment
- Be supported in their educational goals
- Learn about and model Christ's teaching
- Express their own individuality without curtailing others'
- Join in and have fun.

As students they have responsibility to:

- Try to become more loving towards God, themselves and others
- Respect and be courteous to others
- Appreciate and be tolerant of differences
- Use their talents, gifts and abilities to the full
- Always strive to do their best
- Know and follow all School rules and expectations
- Make their own informed decisions and accept responsibility for their actions

The Discipline Policy at St Pius is firmly grounded in the principles of procedural fairness. This means that in all disciplinary situations at the School, students (and parents) have a right to be heard and have a right to a fair and impartial decision on the matter at hand. Students (and parents) also have a right to appeal to a higher authority if they are not satisfied that justice has been done.

In terms of structure, the Discipline System at St Pius consists of many strategies. These include:

- ◆ School Care and Beautification (Green slip);
- ◆ Isolation from the playground at recess and lunch time;
- ◆ ‘Time-out’ from classes;
- ◆ Lunch Detention (Pink slip)
- ◆ Afternoon Detention (Red slip)
- ◆ Internal Suspension – students attend school and do their study and have their Recess and Lunch breaks in isolation in the Administration Block;
- ◆ External Suspension;
- ◆ Expulsion;
- ◆ Where the rights of students have been seriously infringed by another student, the parents may be advised of their rights to contact the police.

At St Pius X High School corporal punishment is prohibited. No school personnel may administer corporal punishment to students in any circumstance. Further to this, St Pius X High School does not sanction in any circumstance the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons, including parents, to enforce discipline at the school.

The Principal reserves the right to exercise discretionary powers in all aspects of the Discipline Policy, except in the area of corporal punishment. Corporal punishment is never to be used by school personnel or non-school persons.

2. Aims

2.1 St Pius X High School, through this Discipline Policy aims:

- 2.1.1 To create within the School community an affirming climate that gives value to the Gospel teachings of love, compassion, tolerance, acceptance, forgiveness, reconciliation and justice
- 2.1.2 To provide a framework within which the School community can maintain consistency of decisions and actions related to discipline and based on the principles of procedural fairness
- 2.1.3 To create and maintain a respectful, secure and healthy learning environment
- 2.1.4 To develop structures and implement practices that support the individual student and all members of the school community
- 2.1.5 To assist students to develop an awareness of their rights and responsibilities and a level of self-discipline commensurate with their age

3. Implementation

The Discipline Policy will be implemented in the following ways:

- 3.1 The Dean of Students is directly responsible to the Principal for ensuring that the policy is implemented as an integral part of the School Pastoral Care Policy and that the School Restorative Justice Policy guides this implementation.
- 3.2 The Dean of Students is responsible for ensuring that the policy is evaluated at appropriate time intervals.
- 3.3 The Dean of Students is responsible for providing details of the policy to all Staff and students at the beginning of each year and as required throughout the year.
- 3.4 The Dean of Students is responsible for ensuring that appropriate records are kept of Detentions and Suspensions imposed in accordance with the policy.
- 3.5 The details of disciplinary procedures are set out in the Student Handbook.
- 3.6 The classroom teacher is responsible for following in their classroom, the disciplinary procedures set out in the Student Handbook. Concerns about a student's classroom behaviour must be directed to their Studies Coordinator.
- 3.7 All teachers are responsible for ensuring that the disciplinary procedures set out in the Student Handbook are enforced. Concerns about a student's behaviour outside class time must be directed to the student's House Coordinator. Concerns about a student's behaviour on a school excursion must be referred initially to the teacher in charge of the excursion and when possible to the appropriate Studies or House Coordinator depending on the nature of the excursion.

4. BUDGET

The implementation of this policy will require minimum funding. Funds will be made available in the School Budget as the need arises. On-going costs incurred through the implementation of this policy include such things as cost of Detention slips and office supplies.

5. EVALUATION

- 5.1 The Discipline Policy will be reviewed and updated every five years as part of the normal SEVDEV cycle, unless it becomes necessary to do so at an earlier time. The Dean of Students is responsible for ensuring that this policy is reviewed and for determining the review process.