



Suspension and Expulsion Policy

Source of Obligation	The Act (s 4.3.1(6)) requires that our policies relating to the discipline of students are to be based on principles of procedural fairness and must not permit corporal punishment.
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>The <u>Student Behaviour Management (Discipline) Policy</u> sets the framework through which the School manages student discipline.</p>

Suspension and Expulsion Defined	<p>Suspension or expulsion may occur as a consequence of a serious breach of the School's rules, or serious disobedience.</p> <p>A suspension is a temporary removal of a student from all classes that a student would normally attend at school for a set period of time.</p> <p>Expulsion is the permanent removal of a student from one particular school.</p> <p>It is our policy that our procedures for the suspension or expulsion of a student are based on the principles of procedural fairness.</p> <p>This Policy sets out the procedures to be followed when making a decision about the suspension or expulsion of a student.</p>
Who May Make a Decision to Suspend or Expel a Student?	<p>Where any teacher or staff member decides that an act or the behaviour of a student may warrant suspension or expulsion the teacher or staff member must refer the matter to the Management Team, or an alternative, disinterested (independent and objective) member of the Management Team who can make a reasonable and unbiased decision.</p> <p>In serious circumstances, a student may be summarily suspended, pending a final decision under this policy. In this case, a meeting with the student and the student's parents to review the suspension must be convened as soon as is practicable.</p>

Procedural Fairness - Procedures	<p>Dandenong Ranges Steiner School is committed to ensuring procedural fairness when disciplining a student. All decisions about the discipline of a student will be conducted in accordance with our <u>Student Behaviour Management (Discipline) Policy</u>.</p> <p>Where a decision is being considered to suspend or expel a student, the Management Team will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• write to the student, and the student's parents/carers stating:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the reasons that the student is under consideration for being suspended or expelled• the relevant rules, policies, standards of behaviour alleged to be breached• the relevant allegations said to warrant suspension or expulsion• allow the student and/or the student's parents/carers to give a response, either in writing or verbally• allow the student to have a support person of the student's choosing• arrange a meeting with the student, and the student's parents/carers• arrange for an interpreter, if one is required• meet with the student and the student's parents/carers and/or support person• ensure that such a meeting is recorded in writing.
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Considerations	<p>The Management Team, after following the procedures set out in this Policy, will make a decision about the facts of the allegations against the student. The Management Team will then decide whether to suspend or expel a student based on the following considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the safety of all students, staff and visitors• the seriousness of the student's acts• the response or remorse of the student, if applicable• the pastoral care and welfare of the student• the student's prospects for rehabilitation.
Alternatives to Suspension or Expulsion	<p>Despite the fact that a student has been referred for suspension or expulsion, other consequences may be imposed. These are outlined in the <u>Student Behaviour Management (Discipline) Policy</u>.</p>

Suspensions and Expulsion	<p>A decision under this policy may result in the following consequences:</p> <p><u>Short Suspension:</u></p> <p>A short suspension may be imposed as a consequence of things such as continued disobedience, or aggressive behaviour.</p> <p>The student may be suspended from attending school for a period of four (4) school days or less.</p> <p><u>Long Suspension:</u></p> <p>A long suspension may be imposed as a consequence of things such as physical violence, possession of a weapon, possession of a suspected illegal substance or serious criminal behaviour.</p> <p>The student may be suspended from attending school for a period of between five (5) to twenty (20) school days.</p> <p><u>Expulsion:</u></p> <p>A student may be expelled from Dandenong Ranges Steiner School. This should be considered as a last resort.</p> <p>An expelled student will be unenrolled from Dandenong Ranges Steiner School and will not be allowed to re-enrol without the permission of the Management Team.</p> <p>A decision to expel a student may only be made after consultation with the Management Team.</p>
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Notification of Decision	<p>The decision made under this Policy will be communicated in writing to the student and the student's parents/carers. The Management Team will also attempt to communicate this decision verbally.</p> <p>The student, and the student's parents/carers must abide by the terms and conditions of the decision.</p> <p>The School maintains a register of suspensions and expulsions. This is maintained by the Office..</p>
Appeals	<p>A student may seek a review of a decision made under this policy. All appeals must be made in writing, setting out the grounds of appeal.</p> <p>An appeal from a decision to suspend a student must be made to the Management Team.</p> <p>An appeal from a decision to expel a student must be made to the Management Team.</p>
Implementation	<p>This Policy is implemented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• staff professional development opportunities in behaviour management• communicating this Policy to the School community• monitoring the effectiveness of the Policy• reviewing and evaluating this Policy annually.