

# ST MARY'S BEHAVIOUR RESPONSE

## PARENT OUTLINE

### EXPECTATIONS AT ST MARY'S

At our school, we are committed to creating a safe, respectful and supportive learning environment for all students. We use consistent language, clear expectations and fair processes to help children learn positive behaviours and take responsibility for their actions.

We explicitly teach and regularly reinforce our school values. Students are reminded of our school-appropriate behaviours and actions through our 'STARS' and our St Mary's Way expectations.

#### STARS

- S - Share Fun
- T - Think Safe, Act Safe
- A - Act Responsibly
- R - Respect all that God has made
- S - Speak with Kindness

#### ST MARY'S WAY

- We talk respectfully to adults and students.
  - We are ready for learning.
  - We walk in two calm lines at our school.
  - We instantly respond to the bell.
  - We keep our school environment clean and safe.
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### BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT GUIDELINES

Our Behaviour Support Guide exists to support the wellbeing, dignity and growth of every St Mary's child. Grounded in Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church, it guides how we nurture respectful relationships, encourage positive behaviour and respond when mistakes occur.

The purpose of the guide is not simply to manage behaviour, but to form young people who act with compassion, responsibility and integrity. It reflects our belief that every child is created in the image of God and deserves to be treated with fairness, care and respect.

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### MINOR BEHAVIOUR

If a student makes a minor mistake and their behaviour requires redirecting, staff use a simple three-step warning/reminder system. There are two reminders first, before a consequence that supports reflection and learning at their third warning.

Consequences for minor behaviours could include one of the following: a short time-out on the playground or in another classroom; walking with the teacher on duty; tidying our school; repaying lost learning time; completing a reflection activity; being supported by a behaviour chart; or another consequence (teacher discretion). Our aim is always to help students understand their behaviour and make better choices next time.

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# MAJOR BEHAVIOUR

More serious behaviours are addressed promptly and may result in stronger consequences. These could include the following: being removed from the playground; having an individual behaviour plan; completing a reflection task in a supervised setting; being removed from the classroom; completing Restorative Justice conversations with a teacher; referral to school leadership; a parent is contacted; or another consequence (teacher discretion).

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# ONGOING BEHAVIOURS

If behaviour concerns continue over time, the school will have further conversations and meetings with the student and their parents. Additional supports will then be put in place, such as: behaviour support plans; access to additional wellbeing support; additional CSBB support; external specialist support; implementation of further school-based consequences and supports determined by the school.

If a child's behaviour remains consistently unsafe, non-compliant or acutely inappropriate, major disciplinary sanctions may apply, such as suspensions or expulsions.

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# SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

When children share details about something that happened at school, it is important to listen calmly and openly. Allow your child to explain what happened without interruption, ask gentle questions, and remember that you may be hearing only one perspective. Reassure your child that you are there to support them, while also helping them reflect on their own role in the situation. Ask your child if they informed a teacher when the incident occurred.

If you have concerns, please contact your child's teacher rather than discussing the matter publicly or with other families. Approach the conversation with curiosity and a willingness to hear the full picture. Speaking respectfully about other children and families models positive behaviour for your child and helps maintain a supportive school community. Be aware that you and your child will not be spoken to about the consequences of other children involved, and your child might not see the other child carry out their consequences - this is a matter between the school and that child's family.

Most importantly, trust that the school will follow consistent processes to ensure situations are handled fairly and thoughtfully. When families and staff work together calmly and respectfully, children feel safer and more supported in resolving challenges and learning from their experiences.

We are all human. Every child will make mistakes. It is important that isolated minor incidents are handled appropriately at the school level. We value open communication with families. If your child is involved in a behaviour incident, staff will contact you when appropriate. We encourage families to speak with their child's teacher if they have any concerns. By working together, we can ensure our school remains a safe, positive and respectful place for every child.

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