

St Mary's Catholic School, Toukley

Behaviour Support Guidelines



Purpose

St Mary's *Behaviour Support Guidelines* is based on a positive behaviour support approach to student management which promotes the continual formation of students in faith, self-discipline and responsibility. Disciplinary practices will be respectful of the dignity and rights of individual students and staff. This policy operates within a context of justice, compassion, reconciliation and forgiveness. The policy intends to ensure the right of teachers to teach and students to learn in a safe and caring Catholic environment.

Policy Framework

Student discipline at St Mary's is intrinsically related to the Catholic Worldview and is based on the Christian vision of Pastoral Care as expressed in the following statements:

Pastoral Care

.....has as its focus the life of Jesus Christ.

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

The life of Jesus Christ is the foundation for the pastoral care evident at St Mary's.

.....is concerned with the dignity and integral growth of the person.

God created humankind in God's image. (Genesis 1:27)

We are made in God's image and we have a deep respect for the innate dignity and uniqueness of each individual.

.....is a responsibility entrusted to all members of the faith community.

All members may be concerned for one another. If one member suffers, all members suffer: if one member is honoured, all members share this joy.

You then are the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:25-27)

At St Mary's students, parents, staff and clergy are entrusted with community responsibility – contributing positively to one another's growth and formation.

.....is a force for healing, reconciliation and liberation.

I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong.

I shall be a true shepherd to them. (Ezekiel 34:16).

Our school community is committed to the values of compassion, tolerance, forgiveness and reconciliation.

.....is an expression of and commitment to justice.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, to the blind new sight, and set the downtrodden free. (Luke 4:18)

St Mary's strives to create social conditions in which the unique dignity of each person is respected.

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Vision Statement

Empowered by the Spirit, we at St Mary's live, learn and grow as disciples of Jesus in a nurturing Catholic community.

Policy Content

To help make St Mary's a happy, safe and caring place to learn and play, we have **STARS** as the basis for our school's positive behaviour support approach.

S	Share Fun
T	Think Safe, Act Safe
A	Act Responsibly
R	Respect All That God Has Made
S	Speak With Kindness

Each aspect of **STARS** is explained to the children, at an age appropriate level, at the beginning of the school year. Continual referral to **STARS** occurs throughout the year. **STARS** is St Mary's school rules and includes the following:

Share Fun

- Welcome and include others
- Play safely
- Take turns
- Play by the game's rules
- Play fairly
- Cooperate with others
- Laugh with people, not at them
- Make everyone feel happy and important

Think Safe, Act Safe

- Use our bodies safely - 'Hands Off'
- Wear a hat in the sun- 'No hat, sit on the seats in the shade'
- Play within the boundaries
- Walk safely on the top playground
- "Still and Silent" when the bell rings
- Use a partner voice in the lunch area

Act Responsibly

- Know and follow our school rules – STARS
- Discourage bullying
- Take pride in our work
- Keep our school clean
- Work cooperatively
- Work quietly
- Try your best
- Let others learn
- Take responsibility for our own learning

- Respond to bells quickly
- Be honest
- Take responsibility for our own actions
- Help others to act responsibly too

Respect All That God Has Made

- Take pride in our appearance
- Respect and care for each other
- Let others go first
- Wear the correct uniform with pride
- Take care of all property and belongings
- Accept one another's differences
- Keep our environment clean and tidy
- Tidy up after ourselves
- Be reverent in liturgies and masses

Speak With Kindness

- Speak politely to everyone
- Listen to each other
- One person speaks at a time
- Wait until it is our turn to speak
- Say "please" and "thank you"
- Smile and say something nice
- Use words that will make others happy

At the beginning of each year, all classes (with the input of both the children and teachers) determine their own set of class rules. Such rules are reflective of our **STARS** initiative and are applied in a consistent manner by staff.

The aims of our school (**STARS**) and classroom rules are to encourage positive behaviour and to ensure that the children of St Mary's learn and play in a safe and happy environment.

To help make St Mary's a happy, safe and caring place to learn and play, all students are expected to follow our **STARS** and our **St Mary's Way**. Our **St Mary's Way** focuses on the importance of the actions we take every day.

We talk respectfully to adults and students

- I use kind and appropriate words at school.
- I listen politely to any adult and wait for my turn to speak.
- I use my manners when visiting the canteen.

We are ready for learning

- We take pride in our uniform. I wear the correct shoes, socks, uniform and bag. I remove necklaces, bracelets, large earrings, nail polish and makeup. My shoulder-length hair is tied back with school-coloured accessories, and my hair is a natural colour. I wear my school hat when I am outside.
- I read each night for my compulsory homework, and my Reading Log is signed and brought to school each week.

We walk in two calm lines at our school

- We walk with our class in two lines, calm and settled.
- When we walk to special places (eg. Church), we walk silently.
- We always walk around our school, unless playing on the oval.

We instantly respond to the bell

- Music during lunch, signals to listen to the teacher.
- My conversation stops and I look to the teacher as soon as I hear the second bell after recess and lunch.
- I wait calmly for my teacher to dismiss me at 3.15pm.

We keep our school environment clean and safe

- My bag is always placed on my bag rack or hook.
- My rubbish is placed in the bin after eating time.
- The lunch crates are placed neatly on the playground.
- Music during lunch signals to tidy my area.

The use of corporal punishment by school persons (staff and students) and non-school persons (parents and carers) is prohibited.

Positive Consequences

Class Reward Systems – each class applies their own positive behaviour support system.

Star Awards – Each week staff members nominate children whose actions reflect our STARS. These children receive a special STARS Award at our weekly assembly.

St Mary's Way Awards – Each week staff members nominate children whose actions reflect our St Mary's Way. These children receive a special St Mary's Way Award at our weekly assembly.

STARS Token – Usually for individuals or small groups of students, recognizing behaviour that is consistent with our St Mary's STARS.

St Mary's Way Tokens – Usually for small group or whole class or grade, acknowledging they are consistently acting in alignment of our St Mary's Way.

Annual Awards Ceremony – At our Annual Awards Ceremony one child from each class is selected by their class teacher to receive the STARS trophy for *consistently displaying outstanding* positive behaviour. Children eligible for selection are those who have received at least one STARS award throughout the school year.

Consequences of "Falling Off Our Stars"

In each class a positive behaviour support system, that is reflective of STARS, is applied. Each system has positive and negative consequences that are reflective of the children's actions. The teachers and children, together, determine their positive behaviour support class system.

Restorative Justice:

When a relationship has broken down between individuals there may need to be a positive intervention to restore that relationship. Sometimes this is done on the playground by the teacher on duty. Not all issues are easy to resolve and a student or group of students may be asked to meet with a trained staff member to find a way forward for those involved. These are referred to as 'RJ' sessions and each child is able to feel heard and discuss what happened, how they felt, how others felt and how can we move forward from this.

Our school uses a three warning system for minor behavior and respond appropriately when major behaviours occur.

Inappropriate Playground Behaviour:

For inappropriate playground behaviour the following applies (some may also apply to the classroom setting):

Minor Incidents

May include but are not limited to the following:

- Swearing
- Running on concrete
- No hat
- Out of bounds
- Dropping Rubbish/Throwing Food
- Dobbng
- Isolated teasing
- Late to lines
- Unsportspersonlike behaviour
- Throwing objects
- Rough play
- Minor non-compliance
- Arguing

Consequences for Minor Incidents – may include: time out in designated areas (particular points in the playground).

Major Incidents

May include but are not limited to the following:

- Violent behaviour: kicking, fighting, punching etc.
- Arguing with and/or running from the teacher
- Very explicit swearing/verbal abuse
- Stealing
- Bullying (may be single serious cases or repeated minor instances)
- Throwing objects violently and/or with intent
- Destruction of property
- Privacy issues (e.g. toilet)
- Risking safety of self/others
- Major non-compliance
- Leaving school grounds

Consequences for Major Incidents - The classroom teacher/principal or principal delegate will provide a structure for encouraging students to reflect on inappropriate behaviour, taking responsibility for their actions, providing an appropriate consequence and determining how they will move forward.

Frequent, repeated minor incidents may be deemed to constitute a major incident. Major incidents and repeated minor incidents are recorded by the school.

When is a parent contacted?

We are all human. Every child will make mistakes. It is important that isolated minor incidents are handled appropriately at the school level (a parent may not be contacted by the school in such cases). A parent is contacted if a **pattern** of inappropriate behaviour establishes. A parent may be contacted for 'one-off' serious incidents. A parent may be contacted for repeated minor incidents.

Major Disciplinary Sanctions

If after applying the above procedures, a child's behaviour remains consistently unsafe, non-compliant or acutely inappropriate major disciplinary sanctions may apply. These sanctions include:

- In School Suspension
- Suspension
- Suspension pending negotiated transfer
- Negotiated Transfer
- Expulsion

Some Learning Support children may sit outside this policy. In matters involving possible major disciplinary sanctions, liaison with CSBB personnel occurs.

Our Behaviour Support Guidelines are reviewed annually.