



Policy Number:	STUDENT 31
Policy Name:	Student Behaviour Support Policy
Contact Officer:	Deputy Principal –Students
Date Approved by Leadership:	May 2022
Date of Next Review:	May 2025
Related Policies:	Child Safe Policy Code of Conduct Student Behaviour Support Plan Mercy Code of Conduct

PREAMBLE

God is at the centre of our College...Mercy is the heartbeat of the Gospel. We encourage every student to grow in the fullness of life and realise their potential through the bread we break at school, the bread of relationships and the bread of conversation. Let us engage the heart and bring faith to life and life to faith (Thomas Groome).

LEGISLATION

This policy takes into account relevant legislative requirements within the state of Victoria, including the specific requirements of the Victorian Child Safe Standards as set out in *Ministerial Order No. 1359*. This policy applies to St Joseph's College staff, including employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy.

Further information relating to the Ministerial Order can be found at

<https://www.safeguardingservices.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Ministerial-Order-1359.pdf>

1. PURPOSE

1.1 At St Joseph's College we are committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating Christ centred learning environment for all students. Students can reach their full learning potential only when they are happy, healthy and safe, and when there is a positive school culture to engage and support them in their learning. St Joseph's College acknowledges that student wellbeing and student learning outcomes are inextricably linked and therefore every member of the school community has a right to fully participate in an educational environment that is safe, supportive and inclusive.

1.2 The Student Behaviour Policy and procedures at St Joseph's College seek to respect the dignity of each person; build inclusive, supportive and caring relationships; foster compassion and forgiveness; and provide information about the practice of developing and promoting respectful behaviours.

1.3 As a Catholic school we are committed to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of all students and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2.1 Foundational to the nature of student behaviour in Catholic schools is the belief that each person is created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27) with the inherent dignity that this

implies, and all are created as social beings, with the mutual rights, obligations and needs that this implies.

2.2 Student behaviour in Catholic schools affirms and gives expression to the belief that the person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching, this is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of a Catholic school.

2.3 Student wellbeing is best achieved within a school environment that is safe, supportive, inclusive and empowering, where diversity is respected and valued, where human rights and the common good are honoured, where inter-relationships are positive, where students experience connectedness and engagement, and where those experiencing difficulty or special needs receive particular care and support.

2.4 Enhanced student wellbeing contributes significantly to improved student learning outcomes. Effective student behaviour management, as an element of pastoral care, is therefore recognised as promoting the achievement of learning outcomes and contributing positively to a school improvement framework.

2.5 Effective whole school approaches to pastoral care such as Restorative Practices require age appropriate behavioural education and skilling of students, and pastorally driven management of student behaviour through processes focused on both individual and community wellbeing, and on ensuring a just and reasonable balance of individual and community rights, needs and responsibilities.

2.6 Behaviour support will be applied in a way that is proportionate to the behaviour and upholds procedural fairness.

2.7 **Corporal Punishment is prohibited in all Victorian schools. Corporal punishment must not be used at St Joseph's College under any circumstances.**

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 In light of our Student Behaviour Policy and these guiding principles at St Joseph's College we will:

- Collaboratively develop and implement a fair and respectful whole-school engagement and behaviour management approach;
- Implement a restorative approach to student management;
- Ensure that the school's curriculum includes pro-social values and behaviour to enable students to acquire knowledge and skills, value diversity and build a culture of learning, community and engagement;
- Promote active student participation in school life and provide students with a sense of ownership in their school environment;
- Support families to engage in their child's learning and build their capacity as active learners;
- Promote active student participation as an avenue for improving student outcomes and facilitating school improvement;
- Establish social/emotional and educational support for vulnerable students and monitor and evaluate progress;
- Have processes in place to identify and respond to individual students who require additional assistance and support;
- Build strong links with the local community to gain access to an extended network of community members, professionals and educators who can provide expertise and experience that can build the capacity of our school and our teachers to respond to the needs of the students;