



Discipline policy (students)

Rationale:

Every student has the right to learn in a safe and caring environment. As a Christian School, Shepparton Christian College has the added mandate of providing an environment that his honour of Christian values and Biblical Worldview.

Aims:

The aim/purpose of this policy is to outline the principles applied to discipline at Shepparton Christian College to ensure that there is a clear understanding for staff, students and parents.

Background:

Every student has the right to learn in a safe environment.

Things that might impact on being a safe school may include, but are not limited to

- Teasing
- Harassing
- Bullying, including cyber bullying
- Damaging other students, or the schools, belongings, equipment or furniture
- Fighting (verbal or physical)
- Swearing or using foul language

Things that might impact on student learning may include, but are not limited to

- Interrupting the learning of other
- Being disrespectful of students, staff or other people
- Talking out of turn or back-chatting to staff
- Not completing set work, including homework
- Talking to other students when individual work is being completed
- Taking other student's belongings without permission
- Skipping classes, or being repeatedly late for class

Things that might impact on being a respectful school may include, but are not limited to

- Being disrespectful of students, staff and other people in our community
- Failing to wear school uniform correctly, including hats
- Failing to follow instructions of staff
- Litter
- Vandalism

Discipline at Shepparton Christian College is founded with a background of Biblical principles, and includes concepts of compassion, repentance, forgiveness and restoration as well as taking responsibility for ones actions.

Hebrews 12:11 "For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

Hebrews 12:5-6 "And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

Implementation:

The purpose of discipline is to change inappropriate behaviours, to ensure the safety of all members of our community and to ensure that learning is not interrupted in the classroom. As such, discipline should be dealt with on a case by case scenario. Procedural fairness is important. Christian compassion and the opportunity for repentance, forgiveness and restoration are vital parts of Christian discipline.

Where an incident requiring discipline occurs, the following considerations are important

- Procedural fairness is important
 - All those involved need to have opportunity to be listened to (this does not always mean face to face with others involved, but sometimes that is useful).
 - All information presented by students and bystanders/witnesses should be duly considered
 - Discipline issues will be investigated as soon as reasonably practical.
- When considering possible consequences as a result of issues, the following are important
 - Consequences need to be implemented as soon as reasonably practical
 - Consequences will be implemented taking into consideration the specific detail around particular incidents.
 - Consequences need to be fair, consistent and wherever possible, restorative.

For issues that are significant, a written record of the incident, and accounts of those involved, will be developed and kept by the staff investigating and following up with students. Significant incidence are those where the consequence could be an immediate after school detention, suspension or expulsion.

It is highly recommended that written records of incidents be kept by staff for all discipline issues that lead to a detention of any type.

Parental involvement is valued and can greatly assist in changing student behaviours that are not

appropriate. For any significant incident, parents will be contact by phone (or other suitable method such as email) as soon as reasonably practical.

On some occasions, it may be useful to refer students facing discipline to the College Chaplain or Counsellor. This will be evaluated but the teachers reviewing the situation. Any referral of this type will generally be in conjunction with other consequences.

Any incident involving an immediate after school requires the approval of either the Secondary Coordinator, Primary Coordinator, the Assistant Principal or Principal.

Incidents requiring suspension require the approval of the Principal, or in his/her absence, the Assistant Principal.

Expulsions can only be authorised by the Principal.

The Principal must advise the school board (at the first available subsequent board meeting) in any case involving suspension or expulsion. These decisions are the responsibility of the Principal, but it is important that the Board is informed of actions taking place.

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited as having any part in the discipline procedures, policies or practices at Shepparton Christian College.

Strategies the school uses to promote positive student behaviour include (but is not limited to):

- Encouraging words from classroom teachers for positive behaviour
- College Commendations at regular assemblies
- Awards for academic and other outstanding achievements
- In class sessions on developing positive student relationships
- The DUO group, who look at antibullying and positive student behaviour strategies

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

In developing the above policy the School Board has aligned these procedures to the Vision and Mission Statements where Biblical philosophies have been the underlying theme.

This policy was adopted at School Board on

Feb 2020