DISCIPLINE POLICY (STUDENTS)

Issue date:	
Last Review date:	
Recent review date:	17 March, 2026
Review cycle:	Every 3 years
Approved by:	Principal

1. 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 honours Christian values and Biblical Worldview.

2. 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.

3. BACKGROUND

Discipline at Shepparton Christian College is founded on a background of Biblical principles.

> 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."

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

Behaviours that make the school unsafe may include, but are not limited to:

- Teasing
- Harassment
- Discrimination
- Racism
- Bullying, including cyberbullying
- Damaging other students, or the school's belongings, equipment or furniture
- Fighting (verbal or physical)
- Swearing or using foul language

Bullying, harassment, and discrimination will not be tolerated. It includes but is not limited to harmful actions on the basis of race, identity, culture, religion, gender identity, sexuality, and disability.

Behaviours that might negatively impact student learning may include, but are not limited to:

- Interrupting the learning of others
- 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

Behaviours that might negatively impact the school culture may include, but are not limited to:

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

4. 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 basis. 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 will have an opportunity to be heard (this does not always mean face-to-face with others involved, but sometimes that is useful).
    - All information presented by students and bystanders/witnesses will 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 details around particular incidents and any relevant historical incidents.
    - Consequences need to be fair, consistent and wherever possible, restorative.
- The Behaviour Flow Chart (appendix 1) provides a useful guide for managing different levels of student behaviour.

Written records of all significant discipline incidents must be entered into the school's pastoral care record management system (e.g. SEQTA). Minor issues can be entered at the teacher's discretion or when a pattern of ongoing behaviour needs to be documented.

Parental involvement is valued and can greatly assist in changing inappropriate student behaviours. For any significant incidents, parents will be contacted by phone (or other suitable methods, 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 by the teacher(s) reviewing the situation. Any referral of this type will generally be in conjunction with other consequences.

The Head of Primary/Secondary must be informed of any after-school detentions that are issued.

Incidents requiring suspension require the approval of the Principal, or in his/her absence, the Assistant Principal. Any suspensions will be recorded in the student management system.

Where a student is repeatedly failing to meet school behavioural expectations, and following parent conversations and other interventions, expulsion may be considered.

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 expulsion. These decisions are the responsibility of the Principal, but it is important that the Board is informed of actions taken. Any expulsions will be recorded in the student management system.

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited at Shepparton Christian College.

Strategies the school uses to promote positive student behaviour include (but are 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
- Social-Emotional learning program (e.g. The Resilience Project)
- Antibullying and positive student behaviour strategies

This policy will be available to parents and students via the school website. The policy is reflected in the Parent Student Handbook.

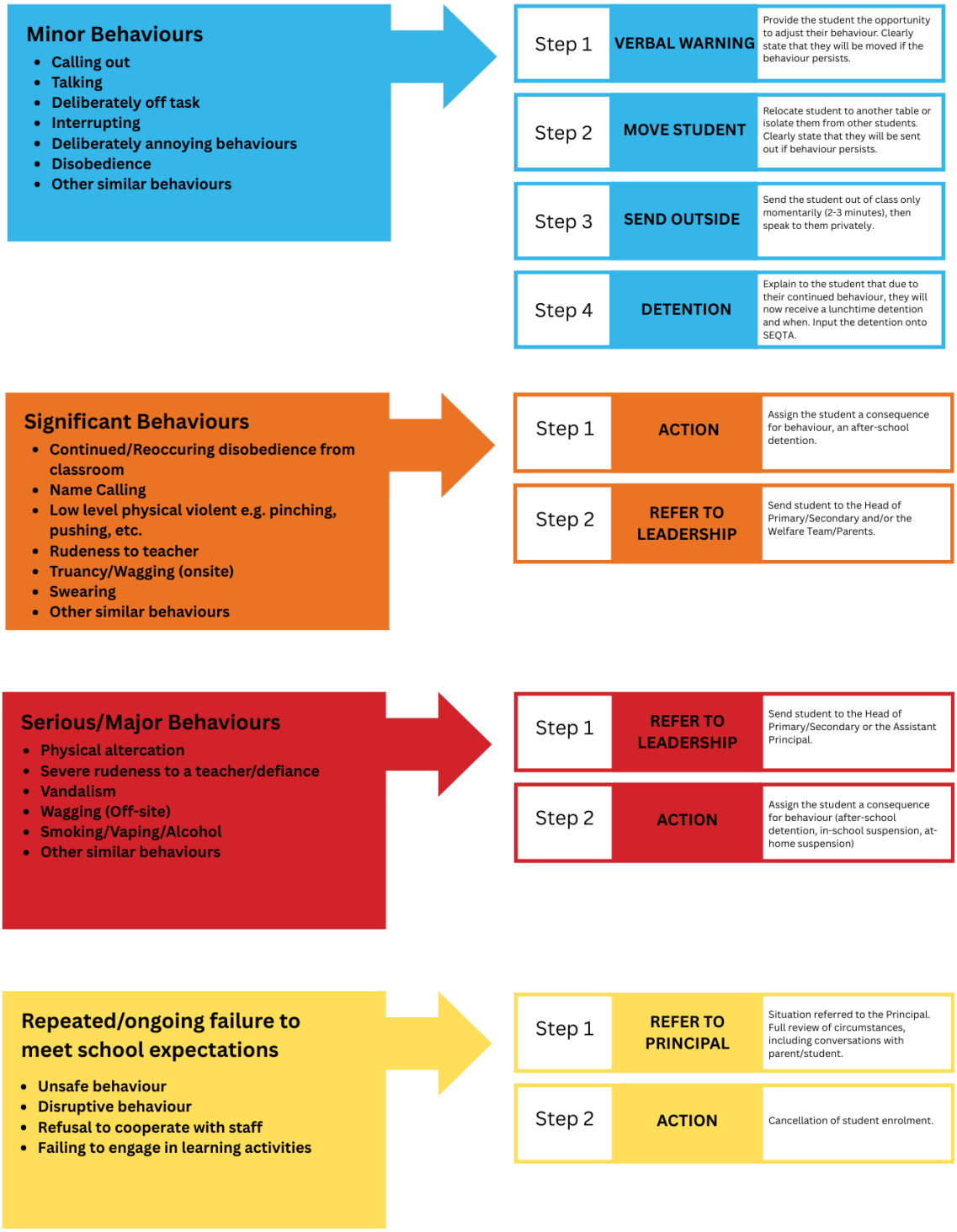
5. EVALUATION

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

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Antibullying and Harassment Policy
Parent Student Handbook
Student Code of Conduct

Version History:
2026 (This version)
2017

Appendix 1

Behaviour Flow Chart