



School Discipline Policy

Part A: Statement of Purpose

To promote and foster the development of self esteem and self discipline

At **Laggan Public School** the **School Discipline Policy** is underpinned by the following:

- that every student has the right to learn in an optimal learning environment.
- that teachers have the right to teach and expect appropriate behaviour from students and assume support from all areas of the school community in implementing this Discipline Policy.

GOOD DISCIPLINE AND EFFECTIVE LEARNING

When parents enrol their children at Public Schools they enter into a partnership with the school staff.

This partnership is based on shared responsibility and mutual respect. It should aim at achieving effective learning and good discipline so that the school environment is both productive and harmonious. The partnership must strive to develop in children an understanding of appropriate behaviour.

Students develop a responsibility for their own behaviour.

Parents and Caregivers share in the responsibility of shaping their children's understandings, values and attitudes about acceptable behaviour.

Teachers are responsible for the education and care of their students when at school. Their task is to provide the best possible program to meet the needs, capabilities and aspirations of each student.

Each partner will support the decisions and responsibilities exercised by others.



THE IMPORTANCE OF A GOOD LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A critical factor in achieving the goals of education is the aspiration of students to do well.

Real levels of achievement are greatly increased when teachers and parents expect high standards.

Good classroom discipline improves the aspirations of students.

Each student's learning depends on the capacity of teachers to carry out their professional responsibilities in the classroom free from disruption.

Every student has the right to expect that he or she will spend the school day, both in and out of the classroom, free from bullying and intimidation.

- Students have a right to be safe and happy at school.
- Students have a right to be safe and happy when travelling to and from school.
- Students have a right to be treated fairly and with dignity.

The same rights also apply to school staff.

CORE RULES OF NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

All students are expected to:-

- Attend school every day, unless they are legally excused, and be in class on time and prepared to learn.
- Maintain a neat appearance, including adhering to the requirements of the school's uniform or dress code policy.
- Behave safely, considerately and responsibly, including when travelling to and from school.
- Show respect at all times for teachers, other school staff and helpers, including following class rules, speaking courteously and cooperating with instructions and learning activities.
- Treat one another with dignity and respect.
- Care for property belonging to themselves, the school and others.

BEHAVIOUR THAT INFRINGES ON THE SAFETY OF OTHERS, SUCH AS HARRASSMENT, BULLYING AND ILLEGAL AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OF ANY KIND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

While meeting expectations, students also have the right to expect courtesy, fairness, respect and excellence in teaching.

Part B: School Rules



School rules are part of the evidence of a partnership between the members of the school community.

At **Laggan Public School**, school rules are established based upon specific desired behaviour negotiated between teacher and students. The negotiation ensures a clear understanding of the rules by students, an awareness of the reasoning between them and therefore promotes acceptance of the commitments to the rules.

Respect

- use respectful behaviour and language at all times
- respect the safety of others
- respect others right to learn and differing learning needs
- respect school, others and their own property

Responsibility

- Play safely in bounds
- Move safely and appropriately around the school
- abide by the school bus rules when travelling to and from school
- bring the correct equipment to school
- Seek help from an adult when needed
- Wear full school uniform every day
- To wear a school hat every day

Participation

- Learn all you can
- Do your best at all times
- Encourage and assist others
- Include others and play fairly
- Represent your school with pride



Part C: Strategies To Promote Positive Student Behaviour

PROVIDING APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM TO MEET THE NEEDS OF EACH STUDENT

- extension and remediation opportunities are available to cater for individual student's needs
- all Key Learning Areas of the curriculum appropriately and adequately covered
- Special interest activities

SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN LEARNING

- merit and reward system
- develop rules which are fair, clear and consistently applied
- formal and informal parent /teacher interviews to encourage and reinforce acceptable student behaviour and attitude
- forums such as Parent & Citizen Meetings, Student Representative Council and Assemblies used to discuss, create, revise and amend policies are available to parents and children
- staff members reinforce good work ethics
- school newsletters used to advise on policy and to acknowledge good discipline and effective learning by pupils
- parents encouraged to support and promote school and class rules with their children
- staff meetings to discuss procedures to be followed to reinforce positive learning and discipline

PROVIDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- Student Welfare / Personal Development programs that develop self discipline, self esteem, conflict resolution and communication skills
- Support programs; STLA, School Counsellor, Speech Therapy



Part D: Strategies to Recognise and Reinforce Student Achievement

SCHOOL BASED MERIT & REWARD SYSTEM

- Reward System;
 - Teachers will award stickers, praise, house points and privileges for good work, manners and behaviour
 - Teachers will award Merit Cards and give commendation either in class and /or School Assemblies
 - Teachers will notify parents and community when special commendation is to be awarded
 - The school newsletter, noticeboard and local newspaper serve as positive vehicles for making public worthy contributions
 - displays in the local community
 - Regularly invite parents and community members into the school

- Book Awards, Trophies and Certificates for achievement, citizenship, sport, improvement etc are awarded at Presentation Night.

- Merit System:
 - Sticky Green cards are given out by teachers and staff
 - White Merit Cards are given by teachers and staff and can also be earned through attaining 10 Sticky Greens
 - Three White Merit Cards can be 'traded' for one Red Merit Card
 - Three Red Merit Cards can be 'traded' for a large Coloured Certificate
 - Three large Coloured Certificates can be traded for a School Banner
 - Three School Banners can be traded for an Engraved Medal.

The Engraved Medal is the highest award achieved, and may take a student five or more years to achieve. The Engraved Medal is only awarded through the accumulation of 81 White Merit Cards

ONGOING, REGULAR CONTACT WITH PARENTS

- Parents are advised where appropriate of positive behaviour and attitude as well as negative aspects



Part E: Strategies To Manage Inappropriate Student Behaviour

The Discipline Plan to deal with unacceptable behaviour is based upon the following:

- Students make errors of judgement in behaviour and actions taken to modify inappropriate behaviour need to be consistent
- Students who make inappropriate behaviour choices need to change their behaviour and learn acceptable ways to conduct themselves
- Discussion and guidance are crucial elements in assisting students to learn to make appropriate behaviour choices
- Persistent inappropriate behaviour may warrant some form of consequence - loss of privilege.
- The students home and school are partners working together to develop appropriate behaviour choices by the student

GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEHAVED UNSATISFACTORILY ARE:

- Discussion with the class teacher or duty teacher, students who repeatedly misbehave referred to the principal
- misbehaviour incidents of a more serious nature referred to the principal and principal discusses misbehaviour with the student
- The principal may withdraw privileges from the student/s such as playground time, use of technology
- the principal may notify parents of the action taken. A parent interview may be requested where appropriate.
- school counsellor may be contacted to counsel students and/or discuss alternative strategies to reform behaviour when appropriate

As a **final step** the school may institute:

- **suspension** (within school, short, long) or **expulsion** of children who have continued or serious unacceptable behaviour in accordance with NSW Department of Education and Communities Guidelines.

WITHIN SCHOOL SUSPENSION

- a student works away from the other students
- the student is not allowed in the playground with the other children
- *allows time for reflection and resolution*



SHORT SUSPENSION

- suspension from school for up to four days
- this is a time when all parties can seek a resolution to the problem
- *a maximum of two occasions per year*

LONG SUSPENSION

- suspension from school for five to twenty days
- used when short suspension has not resolved the problem or misbehaviour is particularly serious
- all parties can seek a resolution to the problem as other strategies are implemented
- *a maximum of two occasions per year*

EXPULSION

- removal of a student from a particular school
- removal of a student from the government school system
- used in extreme circumstances where behaviour is of a very serious nature



Part F: Responsibilities of Staff, Students and Parents

Responsibilities of:

Staff –

- be aware of the school's discipline policy
- fairly implement the school's discipline policy
- maintain positive relationships with students and parents
- communicate both positive and negative consequences clearly to students and parents where needed

Students –

- to come to school prepared to learn
- to follow school rules at all times
- choose appropriate behaviours at all times

Parents -

- maintain positive relationships with school community members
- communicate with school staff regarding student behaviour
- support the school discipline policy