

Rationale

Horizon Christian School (the School, HCS) seeks to develop students to grow in all areas of their life in a supportive learning environment. This includes developing values and attitudes, in keeping with a Christian worldview, that demonstrate care and respect for individuals, being part of a community and learning to contribute positively to society. The School seeks to keep an open dialogue with parents regarding behaviour management matters.

Aim

To support the School and its employees, parents and students in creating a culture of positive behaviour with high levels of student engagement as essential prerequisites for learning in an environment where students learn to take responsibility for their actions.

Policy statement

The policy of the School concerning student behaviour management is to follow specific procedural consequences for unacceptable behaviour that are understood by the students and supported by the parents as per the terms of their enrolment agreement.

Scope

The Behaviour Management Policy applies to all students enrolled at Horizon Christian School. Staff at the School have roles and responsibilities pertaining to the Behaviour Management Policy.

Definitions

At/to the School – this refers to being on the School grounds, but also to being present at School activities such as excursions, on or off site, and special days (e.g. Sports Days)

Behaviour Management Contract – the purpose of this School-student contract is to gain compliance in specified behaviours and to eliminate negative behaviours

School leadership – includes Principal, and appropriate Senior line managers (or delegate)

Head of School – (HOS) refers to an appropriate Senior line manager (or delegate)

Internal Suspension – refers to the removal of a student from their regular classes for a specified period of time, where the student is provided with appropriate work to prevent them from falling behind

Parent – includes caregivers and guardians, or responsible person as listed on the enrolment form

Staff – refers to the student's class teacher or a paid Horizon Christian School staff member who is responsible for supervising the student during School hours or activities

Student – any student (regardless of age) enrolled at HCS through a contract with their parents, or is self-enrolled

Timeout - a temporary behavioral support strategy where a student is separated from a learning activity or classroom environment to de-escalate stress or disruptive behaviour

Detention (Focus Room) - a disciplinary punishment where a student is required to stay at school in a supervised room during non-class hours, such as recess, lunch

Suspension - a student is temporarily removed from their regular classes or school grounds as a disciplinary penalty for breaking school rules

Expulsion – a student is permanently removed or banned from attending school

A Biblical Basis for Behaviour Improvement

The word of God sets the absolute standard to which we are to train children. The word of God shows us how God places value on others, respect for authority and establishes the attitude of biblical ethics. The Bible guides our thoughts and actions through teachings such as:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peace makers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. James 3:17-18

Therefore, at Horizon Christian School, the implementation of the behaviour improvement policy aims to enable:

- Students to learn, grow and develop in a safe and nurturing environment.
- Staff to carry out their responsibilities.
- Parents to feel confident that their children are learning and being cared for in a child-safe environment.

1. Expectations for Student Behaviour

All students' behaviour is bound by the expectations set out in the Student Code of Conduct
See Appendix 1

2. Restorative Practice

At the heart of Restorative Practice, and indeed the Christian faith, is restoring relationships, while at the same time holding people accountable for their actions. It is built on the values of respect, taking responsibility for behaviour and repairing any harm caused to others.

3. Behaviour Management Chart

The HCS Behaviour Management Chart helps to determine the management of student behaviour across the school when it falls outside of expectations.

The Behaviour Management Chart outlines the following:

- Behaviours that are considered to be low level, middle level and serious in nature
- Which staff will deal with breaches of the Behaviour Management Chart; and
- Types of consequences that may follow.

Please see Appendix 2 – Behaviour Management Chart

Exceptions to the Behaviour Management Chart might include:

3.1. Violent behaviour

The School has zero tolerance to violent behaviour. Violent behaviour poses a risk to students and staff. If a student exhibits violent behaviour they will be removed from class and must be sent immediately to the Head of School. If the student refuses to go, the Head of School will be contacted to assist. A Learning Support student may be helped by a suitable staff member from Learning Support to assist. The parents of the student may be contacted to immediately collect the student.

Staff are not to forcibly remove a student, physically restrain a student, or to lock a student in a room or hold the door so that they can't exit. The teacher should remove all other children to a place of safety if not threatened and leave the violent child under supervision until a resolution can be found. A staff member may, in certain circumstances, restrain a student if they pose a genuine risk to themselves or others.

3.2. Serious Offences

More serious offences may be subject to more serious consequences up to and including a student's enrolment terminated and Police involvement. Such matters include but are not limited to:

- Bullying, discriminating against or harming another individual with malicious intent.
- Seriously harming the School's or an individual's reputation.
- Bringing prohibited or controlled substances or hazardous objects on-site, or to a School function.
- Multiple, ongoing failure to comply with, or ongoing deliberate disobedience of, School requirements or directions.
- Breaches of common law.

3.3. Exceptions to procedural guidelines

In some circumstances a student may be suspended or expelled immediately.

This may be due to, but not limited to, reasons of safety of students and staff. Examples could include the student being involved in a serious act of harm, illegality or criminality.

3.4. Parents, caregivers, and students should be aware that a student may be subject to the school's discipline regarding inappropriate behaviour which occurs outside of school if the student behaves in a manner that is contrary to the school's policies.

Returning to school following behaviour consequences:

3.5. Return to school following external suspension

The student and parents shall attend a re-entry meeting with the Principal or Head of School to discuss strategies for the student, such that the behaviour is not repeated, and any restorative actions required for their return.

A Risk Assessment may be warranted if the student's behaviour included violence, potential harm to children, damage to property, or posed any risk to the welfare of others.

4. Parental support and information

Parents have the primary responsibility to teach their children appropriate values, attitudes and behaviour. As part of the enrolment process, parents agree to support the School. A staff member should reasonably expect parental support when following the standard disciplinary process for a student.

Parents will be informed of disciplinary matters. A number of factors affect the timing of such communication, including the level of the behaviour and the potential need to conduct broader inquiries. Parents will generally be informed via phone or email.

Other relevant policies & documents

- HCS Child Protection Policy
- HCS Educational Philosophy

- HCS Enrolment Policy
- HCS Harmful Substances & Illicit Drug Policy
- HCS ICT Policy
- HCS Mobile Phone Policy
- HCS Parent Complaint Policy
- HCS Student Code of Conduct
- HCS Uniform Policy

Review

The policy will be reviewed every three years.

Appendix 1: Student Code of Conduct

Rationale

In keeping with a Christian worldview, students at Horizon Christian School (HCS) are expected to demonstrate care and respect for individuals, to uphold Christian values and attitudes, and to contribute positively to the community. The school verse encourages all to draw near to God (James 4:8a) thereby encouraging all to live consistently with Scriptural values in as much as they impact upon the school and the wider school community.

School Expectations of Students

HCS actively encourages all students to meet our school expectations as it directly benefits school life, paving the way for effective learning and a deeper sense of community. Upholding these expectations enhances our learning environments and ensures all students feel free to discover their God-given potential.

Every Student should:

- Honour each other, staff and members of the school community as bearers of God's image, held in high esteem, respected by others and treated equally
- Contribute their best behaviour in the classroom, yard and during all school activities, engaging in learning and all aspects of school life in full cooperation with those around them
- Learn, without interfering in others learning, to the best of their ability in an environment conducive to learning
- Feel safe in the classroom and the school environment
- Be able to respectfully communicate, share ideas and ask questions.

Student Responsibilities

Attitude Towards School and Learning

Every Student should:

- Attend every school day, unless legally excused
- Be in class on time, with all materials and ready to learn
- Take responsibility for their own learning, completing work set by teachers promptly and to the best of their ability, including homework and other assignments
- Take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the school
- Ensure all school communications are delivered to parents
- Follow instructions
- Respect the learning environment so that others may learn and teachers can teach
- Use technology appropriately.

Behaviour Towards Others

Every Student should:

- Always show respect for others, teachers, school staff, and visitors to the school
- Treat other students and their possessions, with respect
- Respect the learning needs of other students
- Not disrupt class activities or impede others' learning
- Behave in a manner which does not endanger the health and safety of themselves or others
- Respect the authority of members of staff
- Report any dangerous activity to a staff member

- Report any incidents of bullying or harassment, firstly to their class teacher
- Accept correction in a respectful manner
- Be willing to participate in restorative conversations.

Attitude Toward Property

Every Student should:

- Care for property belonging to themselves, the school, and others
- Not enter out of bound areas
- Follow all safety rules
- Play safely in designated areas.

General Behaviour

Every Student should:

- Understand the school expectations and the consequence for breaching these
- Maintain a neat appearance; adhering to the Uniform Policy
- On non-uniform days, wear clothing that is modest, inoffensive and sun safe
- Behave safely and courteously, including when travelling to and from school
- Follow school expectations when at school, participating in school activities or while in school uniform
- Adhere to school policies.

Unacceptable conduct

The following behaviours are considered unacceptable:

- Conduct which breaches this code of conduct
- Inappropriate physical conduct that may endanger the health and wellbeing of another
- Inappropriate language, including swearing, threats, and put downs
- Inappropriate gestures or images
- Any form of cyber misuse or abuse
- Any form of bullying
- Possession, or being under the influence of, illicit drugs (including smoking cigarettes/e-cigarettes (vapes), alcohol or similar substances, the misuse of pharmaceuticals or the provision or supply of any of these (or similar) at school, or any school function, or on the way to or from school.

Breaches of Student Code of Conduct

Breaches of the Student Code of Conduct will have consequences, consistent with the Behaviour Management Policy.

Appendix 2 – Behaviour Management Chart

Low Level Behaviours	Staff Member	Actions may include:
Talking, whispering Off task, time-wasting behaviours Unauthorised movement around class/bus Physical/rough play/pushing others Rude gestures Inappropriate use of language Arguing with others Provoking others Excluding others Teasing/taunting Tapping Noise making Being dishonest Put downs/name calling Walking out of class Minor uniform violation Homework not done Littering Misuse of equipment	Classroom Teacher	<u>Primary</u> In class management (Warn, Move, Remove) Timeout Buddy Class Focus Room Uniform stamp Yard duty clean up
		<u>Secondary</u> In class management (Warn, Move, Remove) Timeout Uniform stamp Low Level Detention (Recorded in TASS) Yard duty clean up
Middle Level Behaviours	Staff Member	Actions may include:
Repeated low-level behaviours Repeated disruption Refusal of direct teacher instruction Disobedience Persistent non-submission of work Breaches of intellectual property Not handing in Mobile phone Inappropriate use of IT Dangerous behaviour in a subject specific area	Classroom Teacher/HOS	<u>Primary</u> Buddy Class/Focus Room Loss of Camp/Excursion privilege Removal from class Internal suspension (Recorded in TASS + Behaviour letter)
		<u>Secondary</u> High level detention (Recorded in TASS) Lesson check Loss of Camp/Excursion privilege Removal from class Internal suspension (Recorded in TASS + Behaviour letter)
Serious Level Behaviours	Staff Member	Actions may include:
Ongoing Middle level behaviours Stealing Inappropriate Mobile Phone/IT use Bullying/Harassment Physical Violence Verbal or physical aggression Discriminatory/defamatory remarks Vandalism Smoking/vaping/drug use or any criminal matter	HOS/Principal	<u>Primary</u> High level detention (Record in TASS) Behaviour Management contract Loss of Camp/Excursion privilege Internal Suspension Suspension Expulsion
		<u>Secondary</u> Behaviour Management contract Loss of Camp/Excursion privilege Internal Suspension Suspension Expulsion