

KULPI STATE SCHOOL

Student Code of Conduct 2020-2023

Every student succeeding

Every student succeeding is the shared vision of Queensland state schools. Our vision shapes regional and school planning to ensure every student receives the support needed to belong to the school community, engage purposefully in learning and experience academic success.

Queensland Department of Education State Schools Strategy 2020-2024

Contents

Purpose	
Principal's Foreword	
P&C Statement of Support	
Consultation	
School disciplinary absences	
Whole School Approach to Discipline Consideration of Individual Circumstances	
Student wellbeing	10
Differentiated and Explicit Teaching	11
Expectations Matrix	13
Focused Teaching	14
Intensive Teaching	14
Legislative DelegationsLegislation	
Delegations	15
Disciplinary Consequences	
Focused	17
Intensive	17
School Disciplinary Absences	18
School Policies	19
Temporary removal of student property	19
Use of mobile phones and other devices by students	21
Preventing and responding to bullying	23
Bullying	24
Bullying response flowchart for teachers	25
Cyberbullying	26
Cyberbullying response flowchart for school staff	27
Cybersafety and Reputation Management (CRM)	28
Anti-Bullying Contract	29
Appropriate use of social media	30
Restrictive Practices	33

	Contact Information
Postal address:	9 Beckman Street Kulpi Queensland 4352
Phone:	07 4692 8239
Email:	the.principal@kulpss.eq.edu.au
School website address:	www.kulpss.eq.edu.au
Contact Person:	Tammy Doudle (Principal)

Endorsement				
Principal Name:	Tammy Doudle			
Principal Signature:	D-dle.			
Date:	7/03/2022			
P/C President and-or School Council Chair Name:	Tanya Plant			
P/C President and-or School Council Chair Signature:	J-Pac			
Date: 7/03/202	22			

Purpose

Kulpi State School is committed to providing a safe, responsible, respectful and disciplined learning environment for all students, staff, parents and visitors.

The Kulpi Student Code of Conduct sets out the responsibilities and processes used throughout the school to promote a productive, effective whole school approach to discipline.

Its purpose is to facilitate high standards of behaviour from all in the school community, ensuring learning and teaching in our school is prioritised, where all students are able to experience success and staff enjoy a safe workplace.



Principal's Foreword

Kulpi State School has a positive culture and strong relationship with the community. The school is a welcoming and accepting community of learners. The responsibility of this culture lies with the actions and voice of the students, teaching and non-teaching team, parents/carers and community who come to our school. Our school is a safe place and a place for all to learn.

The Kulpi State School Student Code of Conduct provides an overview of the school's local policies on use of mobile phones and other technology, removal of student property and the approach to preventing and addressing incidents of bullying. It also details the steps school staff take to educate students about these policies and how students are explicitly taught the expected behaviours. Finally, it details the consequences that may apply when students breach the expected standards of behaviour, including the use of suspension or exclusion.

The Kulpi State School Student Code of Conduct will guide and provide structure to assist in providing a safe, responsible and respectful environment for learning at Kulpi State School.



P&C Statement of Support

As president of the Kulpi State School P&C Committee, I proudly support the new Student Code of Conduct. We are fortunate to be a part of a safe and supportive school environment with long-standing adoption of open and timely communication, which will continue to be implemented through the new behaviour management plan, comprising such concepts as; same day reporting, accounting for individual needs and circumstances regarding supporting behaviour, explicit teaching and generally providing a supportive learning environment.

All parents are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Kulpi State School Student Code of Conduct, and to take the time to converse with their children about the expectations of their school behaviour, and to discuss with both the school and their child/children, any support they may require. In particular, we want to emphasise the existing method of same day reporting, designed to alleviate the escalation of any behavioural issues including bullying, by enabling timely mitigation.

The Kulpi State School P&C Association would like to extend a warm invitation to any parents who wish to discuss the new Code of Conduct and the role of families in supporting the behavioural expectations of students, to contact any of the committee members, become a member of our vibrant P&C group, or attend one of our regular meetings. It is with your support that we can actively collaborate with school staff to ensure that our school continues to deliver a safe and supportive learning environment for all students, and that individual, social and learning needs of all students are appropriately met.



Consultation

The Kulpi State School Student Code of Conduct replaced the school's Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students, Code of Behaviour and Statement of Expectations from 2020. At Kulpi State School students, staff and the school community have consistently been instrumental in supporting and guiding the development of policies to support a safe, supportive learning environment. The Kulpi State School Student Code of Conduct was developed in consultation with students, staff, parents and the Kulpi P&C using the inquiry cycle.

The Kulpi State School Student Code of Conduct is available on the school web site, as a printed copy available through the office and upon enrolment. It will also be promoted through the school newsletter. Any families who require assistance to access a copy of the Student Code of Conduct, are encouraged to contact the principal.

Review Statement

The Kulpi State School Student Code of Conduct will be reviewed annually to maintain currency, with a comprehensive review every four years in line with the School Planning, Reviewing and Reporting cycle.



Data Overview

Current data available to the school was drawn upon and reviewed to inform the Kulpi State School Student Code of Conduct. The School Opinion Survey is an annual collection designed to obtain the views of parents/caregivers, students (year 4 to 6) and school staff on what the school is doing well and what can be improved.

Percentage of parents/caregivers who agree# that:	2017	2018	2019
their child is getting a good education at school (S2016)	100%	100%	100%
this is a good school (S2035)	100%	100%	100%
their child likes being at this school* (S2001)	100%	100%	100%
their child feels safe at this school* (S2002)	100%	100%	100%
their child's learning needs are being met at this school* (S2003)	100%	100%	100%
their child is making good progress at this school* (S2004)	100%	100%	100%
teachers at this school expect their child to do his or her best* (S2005)	100%	100%	100%
teachers at this school provide their child with useful feedback about his or her school work* (S2006)	100%	100%	75%
teachers at this school motivate their child to learn* (S2007)	100%	100%	100%
teachers at this school treat students fairly* (S2008)	100%	100%	75%
they can talk to their child's teachers about their concerns* (S2009)	100%	100%	100%
this school works with them to support their child's learning* (S2010)	100%	100%	75%
this school takes parents' opinions seriously* (S2011)	100%	100%	100%
student behaviour is well managed at this school* (S2012)	100%	100%	100%
this school looks for ways to improve* (S2013)	100%	100%	100%
this school is well maintained* (S2014)	100%	100%	100%

Percentage of students who agree# that:	2017	2018	2019
they are getting a good education at school (S2048)	100%	100%	100%
they like being at their school* (S2036)	100%	100%	100%
they feel safe at their school* (S2037)	100%	100%	100%
their teachers motivate them to learn* (S2038)	100%	100%	100%
their teachers expect them to do their best* (S2039)	100%	100%	100%
their teachers provide them with useful feedback about their school work* (S2040)	100%	100%	100%
teachers treat students fairly at their school* (S2041)	100%	100%	60%
they can talk to their teachers about their concerns* (S2042)	100%	100%	100%
their school takes students' opinions seriously* (S2043)	100%	80%	80%
student behaviour is well managed at their school* (S2044)	100%	100%	80%
their school looks for ways to improve* (S2045)	100%	100%	80%
their school is well maintained* (S2046)	100%	100%	100%
their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things* (S2047)	100%	100%	100%

Percentage of school staff who agree# that:	2017	2018	2019
they enjoy working at their school (S2069)	100%	100%	100%
they feel that their school is a safe place in which to work (S2070)	100%	100%	100%
they receive useful feedback about their work at their school (S2071)	100%	100%	100%
they feel confident embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across the learning areas (S2114)	100%	100%	100%
students are encouraged to do their best at their school (S2072)	100%	100%	100%
students are treated fairly at their school (S2073)	100%	100%	100%
student behaviour is well managed at their school (S2074)	100%	100%	100%
staff are well supported at their school (S2075)	100%	100%	100%
their school takes staff opinions seriously (S2076)	100%	100%	100%
their school looks for ways to improve (S2077)	100%	100%	100%
their school is well maintained (S2078)	100%	100%	100%
their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things (S2079)	100%	100%	89%

(Drawn from Annual Report 2019)

School disciplinary absences

School Disciplinary Absences (SDA) data is available and reported annually in the school's Annual Report. The data reports short suspensions, long suspensions, exclusions and charge-related suspension.

Type of school disciplinary absence	2017	2018	2019
Short suspensions – 1 to 10 days	0	0	0
Long suspensions – 11 to 20 days	0	0	0
Exclusions	0	0	0
Cancellations of enrolment	0	0	0



Whole School Approach to Discipline

Everyone brings their own sets of personal beliefs to a school community. These beliefs influence their decisions, behaviour and social practices. It is reasonable to expect that not everyone will share the same sets of beliefs, and this contributes to a richly diverse social environment in each school. It can also contribute to differences in expectations. There may be a need to reflect on our own understanding of what we consider acceptable and unacceptable and how our understanding applies within the school community. We encourage students and parents/caregivers to make an appointment with the Principal to discuss the model of behaviour support and discipline used at Kulpi State School if further information or clarification is required.

Our staff are committed to delivering a high quality whole school approach to discipline where every student has access to a positive and productive teaching and learning environment and opportunities to engage in quality learning experiences and acquire values supportive of their lifelong wellbeing. The school community has identified the following four expectations to teach and promote high standards of responsible behaviour across our school community.

- Be Safe
- Be a Learner
- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful

These school expectations have been agreed upon and endorsed by the school community and align with the values, principles and expected standards outlined in Education Queensland's Code of School Behaviour, Parent and Community Engagement Framework and Australian Professional Standards for Teachers – Standard 4. Our expectations are inclusive of students, staff, parents and visitors to our school.

Consideration of Individual Circumstances

Staff at Kulpi State School take into account students' individual circumstances, such as their behaviour history, disability, mental health and wellbeing, religious and cultural considerations, home environment and care arrangements when teaching expectations, responding to inappropriate behaviour or applying a disciplinary consequence.

In considering the individual circumstances of each student, we recognise that the way we teach, the support we provide and the way we respond to students will differ. This reflects the principle of equality, where every student is given the support they need to be successful. This also means that not everyone will be treated the same, because treating everyone the same is not fair. For example, some students need additional support to interpret or understand an expectation. Others may benefit from more opportunities to practise a required skill or behaviour. For a small number of students, the use of certain disciplinary consequences may be considered inappropriate or ineffective due to complex trauma or family circumstances. These are all matters that our teachers and Principal consider with each individual student in both the instruction of behaviour and the response to behaviour.

Our staff are obliged by law to respect and protect the privacy of individual students, so will not disclose or discuss consequences for another student's behaviour with anyone but the student's family. This applies even if the behavioural incident, such as bullying, involves

another child. At Kulpi State School, we expect that parents and students will respect the privacy of other students and families during this process.

If you have concerns about the behaviour of another student at the school, or the way our staff have responded to their behaviour, please make an appointment with the Principal to discuss the matter.

Student wellbeing

Kulpi State School offers a range of programs and services to support the wellbeing of students in our school. We encourage parents and students to speak with their class teacher or make an appointment to meet with the Principal if they would like individual advice about accessing particular services.

Learning and wellbeing are inextricably linked — students learn best when their wellbeing is optimised, and they develop a strong sense of wellbeing when they experience success in learning. The <u>student learning and wellbeing framework</u> supports state schools with creating positive school cultures and embedding student wellbeing in all aspects of school life through connecting the learning environment, curriculum and pedagogy, policies, procedures and partnerships for learning and life.

Curriculum and pedagogy

Schools build the foundations for wellbeing and lifelong learning through curriculum embedding <u>personal and social capabilities</u> (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and social management) in the implementation of the <u>P-12 curriculum</u>, assessment and reporting framework.

Schools acknowledge the positive impact that a meaningful relationship between teacher and students can have on students' academic and social outcomes. As part of the whole school's curriculum at Kulpi State School, we provide age appropriate respectful relationships education as part of the delivery of the Australian Curriculum through HPE (Health & Physical Education).

Policy and expectations

Within a school community there are specific health and wellbeing issues that will need to be addressed for the whole school, specific students, or in certain circumstances.

Specialised health needs

Kulpi State School works closely with parents to ensure students with specialised health needs, including those requiring specialised health procedures, have access to a reasonable standard of support for their health needs whilst attending school or school-based activities.

This means that appropriate health plans are developed (when required) and followed for students with specialised health needs, that staff are aware of the student's medical condition and that an appropriate number of staff have been trained to support the student's health condition.

Medications

Kulpi State School requires parent consent and medical authorisation to administer any medication (including over-the-counter medications) to students. For students requiring medication to be administered during school hours, the school can provide further information and relevant forms.

For students with a long-term health condition requiring medication, parents need to provide the school with a <u>Request to administer medication at school</u> form signed by the prescribing health practitioner.

Kulpi State School maintains a minimum of one adrenaline auto-injector and asthma reliever/puffer, stored in the school's first aid kit to provide emergency first aid medication if required.

Mental health

Kulpi State School implements, early intervention measures and treatments for students where there is reasonable belief that a student has a mental health difficulty. This includes facilitating the development, implementation and periodic review of a <u>Student Plan</u> (when required).

Suicide prevention

Kulpi State School staff who notice suicide warning signs in a student should seek help immediately from the principal who will contact the school's guidance officer.

When dealing with a mental health crisis, schools call 000 when there is an imminent threat to the safety of student in the first instance, and where necessary provide first aid. In all other situations, Kulpi State School staff follow suicide intervention and prevention advice by ensuring:

- the student is not left alone
- their safety and the safety of other students and staff is maintained
- students receive appropriate support immediately
- parents are advised
- all actions are documented and reported

Suicide postvention

In the case of a suicide of a student that has not occurred on school grounds, Kulpi State School enacts a postvention response, by communicating with the family of the student and ensuring immediate support is provided to students and staff who may be affected (when required).

If a suicide occurs on school grounds or at a school event, Kulpi State School staff will immediately enact the School Emergency Management Plan and communicate with the family of the student and ensure immediate support is provided to students and staff who may be affected.

Differentiated and Explicit Teaching

Kulpi State School is a disciplined school environment that provides differentiated teaching to respond to the learning needs of all students. This involves teaching expected behaviours through common language, providing practical opportunities for students to practise these behaviours and targeted correction and feedback.

Teachers at Kulpi State School vary what students are taught, how they are taught and how students can demonstrate what they know as part of this differentiated approach to behaviour. These decisions about differentiation are made in response to student data, day-to-day monitoring and information provided to staff via OneSchool applications.

There are three main layers to academic and pedagogical differentiation. Each layer provides progressively more personalised supports for students.

Differentiation occurs at each layer and becomes increasingly personalised

Differentiated and explicit teaching: for all students

Focused teaching: for identified students

Intensive teaching: for a small number of students

For example, Tier 1 is differentiated and explicit teaching for all students, Tier 2 is focussed teaching for identified students and Tier 3 is intensive teaching for a small number of students.

Every classroom in our school uses the Expectations Matrix, illustrated below, as a basis for developing their behaviour standards. Using this matrix, the class teacher works with all students to explain exactly what each of the expectations look, sound and feel like in their classroom. The completed matrix is on display in every classroom, used as the basis of teaching expectations throughout the year and revisited regularly to address any new or emerging issues.

These expectations are communicated to students via a number of strategies including:

- Behaviour session conducted by classroom teacher to explicitly teach rules and behavioural expectations.
- Reinforcement of appropriate behaviour during active supervision by staff during classroom and non-classroom activities.
- Providing students with the opportunity to express their side of the situation in a controlled and supportive manner.



Expectations Matrix

Expectations Matrix

Expectations Watrix						
At Kulpi State School we value						
	Learning	Safety	Respect	Responsibility		
	Specific Behaviours Across Settings					
Expectations	Everywhere	In the	Classroom	Outside	Bus Travel	
Be a Learner	Be a listener Be the best participant that I can be Be on time Ask for help	Be organised Participate full Listen to other	ly rs when they speak	Learn new games and activities Develop social skills		
Be Safe	Keep hands and feet to myself Walk on concrete Stay in the school grounds Leave toys at home	Sit safely Walk inside Use equipmen Carry equipme		Wear shoes and hat Sit while eating Use equipment as intended In the toilets: One person in one toilet cubicle Wash hands with soap Use toilet and paper as intended	Sit on the seat	
Be Respectful	Use kind words and actions Use hello, goodbye, please, thank you Listen to the speaker Wait my turn Give others personal space Walk quietly through school Follow adult instructions	Use an inside of Share equipmonts Show whole be play by the rul Be a 'good spoots	ent/take turns ody listening les of the game	Invite others to join in Keep left on the stairs Walk up and down stairs In the toilets: Flush toilet Replace empty toilet roll	Follow adult instructions Use kind words and kind voices Use an inside voice	
Be Responsible	Ask permission before leaving group / class Tell the truth Return property to where it belongs Put rubbish in the bin	Keep workspa Have equipme Follow timetal Use ICTs as dir	nt ready ble / daily schedule	Look after equipment and own belongings Take responsibility for my behaviour choices Care for others In the toilets: Turn off taps Keep space clean Straight there straight back	Keep our hands, feet, and objects to ourselves	

Focused Teaching

There are a number of students in any school or classroom which may require additional support to meet behaviour expectations, even after being provided with differentiated and explicit teaching.

Focused teaching involves revisiting key behavioural concepts and/or skills and using explicit and structured teaching strategies in particular aspects of a behaviour skill. Students are provided with more opportunities to practise skills and multiple opportunities to achieve the intended learning and expected behaviour. Student progress in monitored by the classroom teacher to identify those who no longer require support, require ongoing focused teaching or more intensive teaching.

Staff will seek support from regional support staff if more guidance and support is required.

Intensive Teaching

In any effective, well-functioning school, there will still be approximately 5% of the student population who require intensive teaching to achieve behavioural expectations. Kulpi State School is committed to educating all students, including those with the highest behavioural support needs. We recognise students with highly complex and challenging behaviour may need comprehensive systems of support with input from a variety of stakeholders. Intensive support involves frequent and explicit instruction, with individuals or small groups to develop mastery of basic behavioural concepts, skills and knowledge.

Students who display complex and challenging behaviour may be provided with individualised function-based behaviour assessment and support plans and multi-agency collaboration. This approach will seek to address the acute impact of barriers to learning and participation faced by students and their families who are negotiating a number of complex personal issues. Decisions about the type of intensive support provided to each student is based on student data, consultation with families and where appropriate, information from outside agencies.

Intensive Support may include:

- Risk Management Plans
- Behaviour Support Plans
- Individualised Student Timetables
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Referrals to external support agencies



Legislative Delegations

Legislation

In this section of the Student Code of Conduct provide links to relevant legislation that inform the overall Student discipline procedure.

- Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld)
- Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld)
- Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005
- Criminal Code Act 1899 (Qld)
- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006
- Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017
- Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)
- Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld)
- Judicial Review Act 1991 (Qld)
- Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld)
- Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 (Qld)
- Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)
- Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2011 (Cwth)

Delegations

Under the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, state school principals are responsible for "controlling and regulating student discipline in the school".

Principals are afforded a number of **non-delegable powers** to assist them to meet this obligation, including the authority to suspend, exclude or cancel the enrolment of a student at the school. These decision-making responsibilities cannot be delegated to other staff in the school, such as deputy principals.

The details of these responsibilities are outlined in the legislative instruments of delegation and instruments of authorisation provided below:

- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 Director-General's delegations
- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 Minister's delegations
- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 Director-General's authorisations
- Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006 Minister's delegations
- Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017 Director-General's delegations



Disciplinary Consequences

Kulpi State School makes systematic efforts to prevent inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour by teaching and reinforcing expected behaviours on an ongoing basis. When these behaviour incidents occur, it is important that disciplinary consequences are predictable. Kulpi State School seeks to ensure that responses to inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour are consistent and proportionate to the nature of the behaviour.

When responding to behaviour incidents, the staff member determines if the problem behaviour is major or minor. This is based on a school specific, detailed list of what constitutes minor and major behaviour. Repeated minor behaviour despite adult intervention and opportunity for correction can be recorded as a major behaviour.

Disciplinary consequences follow the same differentiated approach used in the proactive teaching and support of student behaviour expectations. Kulpi State School staff have access to a variety of possible consequences for unacceptable behaviour depending on their intensity, duration, latency and frequency.

Differentiated

Class teacher provides in-class or in-school disciplinary responses to low-level or minor problem behaviour. This may include:

- Pre-correction e.g. "Show me how to walk quietly to your seat"
- Non-verbal cues such as hand gestures
- Visual cues such as posters
- Whole class practising of routines
- Whole school Gotcha system
- Ratio of 5 positive to 1 negative feedback
- Friendly or formal reminders
- Providing errand or responsibility for a task
- Corrective feedback e.g. "Hand up when you want to ask a question"
- Rule reminders e.g. "When the bell goes, stay seated until I dismiss you"
- Explicit behavioural instructions e.g. "Pick up your pencil"
- Proximity control
- Tactical ignoring of low level safe behaviour
- Revised seating plan and relocation of student/s
- Individual positive reinforcement for appropriate behaviour through Gotchas
- Class wide incentives
- Reminders of incentives or class goals
- Redirection
- Low voice and tone for individual instructions
- Give 30 second 'take-up' time for student/s to process instruction/s
- Reduce verbal language
- Break down tasks into smaller chunks
- Provide positive choice of task order e.g. "Which one do you want to start with?"
- Prompt student to take a break or time away in class
- Model appropriate language, problem solving and verbalise thinking process
 e.g. "I'm not sure what is the next step, who can help me?"

- Provide demonstration of expected behaviour
- Private discussion with student about expected behaviour
- Reprimand for inappropriate behaviour
- Warning of more serious consequences e.g. removal from classroom
- Lunchtime reflection

Focused

The class teacher is supported by other school-based staff to address in-class problem behaviour. This may include:

- Playground plans
- Transition plans
- Self-monitoring plan
- Behaviour tracker
- · Teacher coaching and debriefing
- Lunchtime reflections
- Targeted skills
- Functional Behaviour Assessment
- Counselling, Guidance support
- Regular contact/meetings with parents and/or external agencies

Intensive

The Principal works in consultation with Regional Student Services to address persistent or ongoing serious problem behaviour. This may include:

- Temporary removal of student property (e.g. mobile phone)
- Short term suspension (up to 10 school days)
- Long term suspension (up to 20 school days)
- Charge related suspension (student has been charged with a serious criminal offence is suspended from school until the charge has been dealt with by the relevant justice authorities)
- Suspension pending exclusion (student is suspended from school pending a decision by the Director-General or delegate (principal) about their exclusion from school)
- Exclusion (student is excluded from a particular state school site, a group of state schools or all state schools in Queensland for a defined period of time or permanently)
- Cancellation of enrolment for students older than compulsory school age who refuse to participate in the educational program provided at the school.



School Disciplinary Absences

A School Disciplinary Absence (SDA) is an enforced period of absence from attending a Queensland state school, applied by the Principal as a consequence to address poor student behaviour. There are four types of SDA:

- Short suspension (1 to 10 school days)
- Long suspension (11 to 20 school days)
- Charge-related suspension
- Exclusion (period of not more than one year or permanently). https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/education/learning/Procedure%20Attachments/Student-discipline/Student-discipline.pdf

At Kulpi State School, the use of any SDA is considered a very serious decision. It is typically only used by the Principal when other options have been exhausted or the student's behaviour is so dangerous that continued attendance at the school is considered a risk to the safety or wellbeing of the school community.

Parents and students may appeal a long suspension, charge-related suspension or exclusion decision. A review will be conducted by the Director-General or their delegate, and a decision made within 40 schools days to confirm, amend/vary or set aside the original SDA decision by the Principal.

The appeal process is a thorough review of all documentation associated with the SDA decision and provides an opportunity for both the school and the family to present their case in the matter. Time is afforded for collection, dissemination and response to the materials by both the school and the family. It is important that the purpose of the appeal is understood so that expectations are clear, and appropriate supports are in place to ensure students can continue to access their education while completing their SDA.

Re-entry following suspension

Students who are suspended from Kulpi State School may be invited to attend a re-entry meeting on the day of their scheduled return to school. The main purpose of this meeting is to welcome the student, with their parent/s, back to the school, strategize to set the student up for future success and strengthen home-school communication. It is not mandatory for the student or their parents to attend a re-entry meeting though it may be offered as a support for the student to assist in their successful re-engagement in school following suspension.

Reasonable adjustments

In planning the re-entry meeting, school staff will consider reasonable adjustments needed to support the attendance and engagement of the student and family. This includes selecting an appropriate and accessible meeting space, organising translation or interpretation services or supports (e.g. AUSLAN), provision of written and/or pictorial information and other relevant accommodations. The inclusion of support staff, such as Guidance Officers, may also offer important advice to ensure a successful outcome to the re-entry meeting.



School Policies

Kulpi State School has tailored school discipline policies designed to ensure students, staff and visitors work cooperatively to create and maintain a supportive and safe learning environment. Please ensure that you familiarise yourself with the responsibilities for students, staff and visitors outlined in the following policies:

- Temporary removal of student property
- Use of mobile phones and other devices by students
- Preventing and responding to bullying
- Appropriate use of social media

Temporary removal of student property

The removal of any property in a student's possession may be necessary to promote the caring, safe and supportive learning environment of the school, to maintain and foster mutual respect between all state school staff and students. The <u>Temporary removal of student property by school staff procedure</u> outlines the processes, conditions and responsibilities for state school principals and school staff when temporarily removing student property.

In determining what constitutes a reasonable time to retain student property, the Principal or state school staff will consider:

- the condition, nature or value of the property
- the circumstances in which the property was removed
- the safety of the student from whom the property was removed, other students or staff members
- good management, administration and control of the school

The Principal or state school staff determine when the temporarily removed student property can be returned, unless the property has been handed to the Queensland Police Service.

The following items are explicitly prohibited at Kulpi State School and will be removed if found in a student's possession:

- illegal items or weapons (e.g. guns, knives, brass knuckles, chains)
- imitation guns or weapons
- potentially dangerous items (e.g. blades, rope)
- drugs** (including tobacco)
- alcohol
- aerosol deodorants or cans (including spray paint)
- explosives (e.g. fireworks, flares, sparklers)
- flammable solids or liquids (e.g. fire starters, mothballs, lighters)
- poisons (e.g. weed killer, insecticides)
- inappropriate or offensive material (e.g. racist literature, pornography, extremist propaganda)

Queenslan

^{*} No knives of any type are allowed at school, including butter knives or craft knives. Knives needed for school activities will be provided by the school, and the use of them will be supervised by school staff.

** The administration of medications to students by school staff is only considered when a prescribing health practitioner has determined that it is necessary or when there is no other alternative in relation to the treatment of a specific health need. Schools require medical authorisation to administer any medication to students (including over-the-counter medications such as paracetamol).

Responsibilities

State school staff at Kulpi State School:

- do not require the student's consent to search school property such as desks or laptops that are supplied to the student through the school;
- may seize a student's bag where there is suspicion that the student has a dangerous item (for example, a knife) in their school bag, prior to seeking consent to search from a parent or calling the police;
- consent from the student or parent is required to examine or otherwise deal with the temporarily removed student property (e.g. staff who temporarily remove a mobile phone from a student are not authorised to unlock the phone or to read, copy or delete messages stored on the phone);
- there may, however, be emergency circumstances where it is necessary to search a student's property without the student's consent or the consent of the student's parents (e.g. to access an EpiPen for an anaphylactic emergency);

consent from the student or parent is required to search the person of a student (e.g. pockets or shoes)

 may contact the police and the student's parents if consent is not provided and a search is considered necessary

Parents of students at Kulpi State School

- ensure your children do not bring property onto schools grounds or other settings used by the school (e.g. camp, sporting venues) that:
 - is prohibited according to the Kulpi State School Student Code of Conduct
 - is illegal
 - puts the safety or wellbeing of others at risk
 - does not preserve a caring, safe, supportive or productive learning environment
 - does not maintain and foster mutual respect;
- collect temporarily removed student property as soon as possible after they have been notified by the Principal or state school staff that the property is available for collection

Students of Kulpi State School

- do not bring property onto school grounds or other settings used by the school (e.g. camp, sporting venues) that:
 - is prohibited according to the Kulpi State School Code of Conduct
 - is illegal



- puts the safety or wellbeing of others at risk
- does not preserve a caring, safe, supportive or productive learning environment
- does not maintain and foster mutual respect;
- collect their property as soon as possible when advised by the Principal or state school staff it is available for collection

Use of mobile phones and other devices by students

Digital literacy refers to the skills needed to live, learn and work in a society where communication and access to information is dominated by digital technologies like mobile phones. However, the benefits brought about through these diverse technologies can be easily overshadowed by deliberate misuse which harms others or disrupts learning.

In consultation with the broader school community, Kulpi State School has determined that explicit teaching of responsible use of digital devices is a critical component of digital literacy. The knowledge and confidence to navigate and use these technologies safely while developing digital literacy is a responsibility shared between parents, school staff and students. Digital literacy will be taught using school devices.

Responsibilities

All mobile phones are to be handed in to the office upon arrival at the school. They should be collected after the student has been dismissed from class at the end of the school day.

The responsibilities for students using mobile phones or other devices at school or during school activities, are outlined below.

It is **acceptable** for students at Kulpi State School to:

- Use school devices for
 - assigned class work and assignments set by teachers
 - developing appropriate literacy, communication and information skills
 - authoring text, artwork, audio and visual material for publication on the intranet or internet for educational purposes as supervised and approved by the school
 - conducting general research for school activities and projects
 - communicating or collaborating with other students, teachers or experts in relation to school work
 - accessing online references such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias, etc.
 - researching and learning through the department's eLearning environment
 - the device is being usedbe courteous, considerate and respectful of others when using a mobile device
 - seek teacher's approval when they wish to use a mobile device under special circumstances

It is **unacceptable** for students at Kulpi State School to:

- use a mobile phone or other devices in an unlawful manner
- use a mobile phone outside allocated times
- download, distribute or publish offensive messages or pictures



- use obscene, inflammatory, racist, discriminatory or derogatory language
- use language and/or threats of violence that may amount to bullying and/or harassment, or even stalking
- insult, harass or attack others or use obscene or abusive language
- deliberately waste printing and internet resources
- damage computers, printers or network equipment
- · commit plagiarism or violate copyright laws
- ignore teacher directions for the use of social media, online email and internet chat
- send chain letters or spam email (junk mail)
- knowingly download viruses or any other programs capable of breaching the department's network security
- use in-phone cameras anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets
- invade someone's privacy by recording personal conversations or daily activities and/or the further distribution (e.g. forwarding, texting, uploading, Bluetooth use etc.) of such material
- use a mobile phone (including those with Bluetooth functionality) to cheat during exams or assessments
- take into or use mobile devices at exams or during class assessment unless expressly permitted by school staff

At all times students, while using ICT facilities and devices supplied by the school, will be required to act in line with the requirements of the Kulpi State School Student Code of Conduct. In addition students and their parents should:

- understand the responsibility and behaviour requirements (as outlined by the school) that come with accessing the department's ICT network facilities
- ensure they have the skills to report and discontinue access to harmful information if presented via the internet or email
- be aware that:
 - access to ICT facilities and devices provides valuable learning experiences for students and supports the school's teaching and learning programs
 - the school is not responsible for safeguarding information stored by students on departmentally-owned student computers or mobile devices
 - schools may remotely access departmentally-owned student computers or mobile devices for management purposes
 - students who use a school's ICT facilities and devices in a manner that is not appropriate may be subject to disciplinary action by the school, which could include restricting network access
 - despite internal departmental controls to manage content on the internet, illegal, dangerous or offensive information may be accessed or accidentally displayed
 - teachers will always exercise their duty of care, but avoiding or reducing access to harmful information also requires responsible use by the student



Preventing and responding to bullying

Kulpi State School uses the <u>Australian Student Wellbeing Framework</u> to promote positive relationships and the wellbeing of all students, staff and visitors at the school.

Our staff know student learning is optimised when they feel connected to others and experience safe and trusting relationships. Students who feel secure are more likely to be active participants in their learning and to achieve better physical, emotional, social and educational outcomes. Teachers who feel valued and supported are more likely to engage positively with students and build stronger connections within the school community. Parents who are positively engaged with their child's education leads to improved student self-esteem, attendance and behaviour at school. Enhancing the wellbeing of students and their educators delivers overall long-term social, health and economic benefits to the Australian community.

Core elements of the Australian Student Wellbeing Framework shape student, staff, parents and community engagement.

1. Leadership

Principals and school leaders playing an active role in building a positive learning environment where the whole school community feels included, connected, safe and respected.

2. Inclusion

All members of the school community actively participating in building a welcoming school culture that values diversity, and fosters positive, respectful relationships.

3. Student voice

Students actively participate in their own learning and wellbeing, feel connected and

use their social and emotional skills to be respectful, resilient and safe.

4. Partnerships

Families and communities collaborating as partners with the school to support student learning, safety and wellbeing.

5. Support

School staff, students and families sharing and cultivating an understanding of wellbeing and positive behaviour and how this supports effective teaching and learning.

The engagement of young people in the design of technology information and digital education programs for parents was a key recommendation from the <u>Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce report</u> in 2018, and at Kulpi State School we believe students should be at the forefront of advising staff, parents and the broader community about emerging issues and practical solutions suitable to different contexts.





Bullying

The agreed national definition for Australian schools describes bullying as:

- ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm;
- involving an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening;
- happening in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert)
- bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records);
- having immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders
- single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying

Behaviours that do not constitute bullying include:

- mutual arguments and disagreements (where there is no power imbalance)
- not liking someone or a single act of social rejection
- one-off acts of meanness or spite
- isolated incidents of aggression, intimidation or violence

However, these conflicts are still considered serious and need to be addressed and resolved. At Kulpi State School, our staff will work to quickly respond to any matters raised of this nature in collaboration with students and parents.

The following flowchart explains the actions Kulpi State School teachers will take when they receive a report about student bullying, including bullying which may have occurred online or outside of the school setting. Please note that the indicative timeframes will vary depending on the professional judgment of teachers who receive the bullying complaint and their assessment of immediate risk to student/s.



Bullying response flowchart for teachers

Please note these timelines may be adjusted depending on the unique circumstances and risk associated with each situation. This is at the professional judgment of the staff involved. Timeframes should be clearly discussed and agreed with student and family.

Key contacts for students and parents to report bullying: Prep to Year 6 – Principal

First hour Listen

Day one

Document

- · Provide a safe, quiet space to talk
- · Reassure the student that you will listen to them
- Let them share their experience and feelings without interruption
- If you hold immediate concerns for the student's safety, let the student know how you will
 address these. Immediate in this circumstance is where the staff member believes the
 student is likely to experience harm (from others or self) within the next 24 hours
- Ask the student for examples they have of the alleged bullying (e.g. hand written notes or screenshots)
- · Write a record of your communication with the student
- Check back with the student to ensure you have the facts correct
- Enter the record in OneSchool
- · Notify parent/s that the issue of concern is being investigated
- Gather additional information from other students, staff or family
- · Review any previous reports or records for students involved
- Make sure you can answer who, what, where, when and how
- Clarify information with student and check on their wellbeing
- Day three Discuss

Day two

Collect

- Evaluate the information to determine if bullying has occurred or if another disciplinary matter is at issue
- Make a time to meet with the student to discuss next steps
- Ask the student what they believe will help address the situation
- Provide the student and parent with information about student support network
- · Agree to a plan of action and timeline for the student, parent and yourself
- Day four Implement
- Document the plan of action in OneSchool
- Complete all actions agreed with student and parent within agreed timeframes
- Monitor the student and check in regularly on their wellbeing
- Seek assistance from student support network if needed
- Day five Review
- Meet with the student to review situation
- · Discuss what has changed, improved or worsened
- Explore other options for strengthening student wellbeing or safety
- Report back to parent
- Record outcomes in OneSchool

Ongoing Follow up

- Continue to check in with student on regular basis until concerns have been mitigated
- Record notes of follow-up meetings in OneSchool
- Refer matter to specialist staff within 48 hours if problems escalate
- · Look for opportunities to improve school wellbeing for all students



Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is treated at Kulpi State School with the same level of seriousness as in-person bullying. The major difference with cyberbullying however, is that unlike in-person bulling, cyberbullying follows students into their community, their homes and their bedrooms, giving them no opportunity to escape the harassment or abuse during the evening, weekends or holidays.

In the first instance, students or parents who wish to make a report about cyberbullying should approach the Principal. It is important for students, parents and staff to know that state school principals have the authority to take disciplinary action to address student behaviours that occur outside of school hours or school grounds. This includes cyberbullying. Parents and students who have concerns about cyberbullying incidents occurring during school holidays should immediately seek assistance through the Office of the e-Safety Commissioner or the Queensland Police Service.

Students enrolled at Kulpi State School may face in-school disciplinary action, such as detention or removing of privileges, or more serious consequences such as suspension or exclusion from school for engaging in behaviour that adversely affects, or is likely to adversely affect, other students or the good order and management of the school. This includes behaviour such as cyberbullying which occurs outside of school hours or settings, for example on the weekend or during school holidays. It also applies to inappropriate online behaviour of enrolled students that is directed towards other community members or students from other school sites.

Parents or other stakeholders who engage in inappropriate online behaviour towards students, staff or other parents may be referred to the Office of the e-Safety Commissioner and/or the Queensland Police Service. State school staff will be referred for investigation to the Integrity and Employee Relations team in the Department of Education. Any questions or concerns about the school process for managing or responding to cyberbullying should be directed to the Principal.



Cyberbullying response flowchart for school staff

How to manage online incidents that impact your school

Student protection

If at any point the principal forms a reasonable suspicion that a student has been harmed or is at risk of harm, they have a responsibility to respond in accordance with the Student protection procedure.

Explicit images

If the investigation involves naked or explicit images of children, staff should not save, copy, forward or otherwise deal with the content, as per the Temporary removal of student property by school staff procedure. This includes onto OneSchool records. Refer to the investigative process outlined in 'Responding to incidents involving naked or explicit images of children' from the Online Incident management guidelines.

Report

Refer to the Online incident management guidelines for more details, or if assistance is required, contact the Cybersafety and Reputation Management (CSRM)team on 3034 5035 or Cybersafety.ReputationManagement@qed.qld.gov.au.

Does the online behaviour/incident negatively impact the good order and management of the school?



1. Initiate an incident response

Start an incident management log (running sheet) which records times and dates of events, observations, tasks completed, persons involved and written conversational notes.

2. Collect evidence

Gather and preserve any <u>evidence</u> of the online content or a potential unlawful online behaviour, where legally permissible. Confiscation of digital devices can only be done under the <u>Temporary removal of student property by</u> school staff procedure.

3. Is there a potential crime?

The <u>Queensland Criminal Code</u> contains several applicable sections for cyberbullying. A list of potential relevant criminal offences can be viewed at Appendix 3, and include:

- · unlawful stalking
- computer hacking and misuse
- · possession, distribution and making child exploitation material
- fraud obtaining or dealing with identification information

personal information to law enforcement agencies procedure.

criminal defamation.

Inform the student's parent/s (and student if appropriate) of their options:

- Report the incident to an external agency such as police, Office of the eSafety Commissioner or the Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network.
- Report the online content/behaviour using the online tools provided by the website or app.

Principals may start contact with a law enforcement agency (LEA) by completing an LEA referral form, under the Disclosing personal information to law enforcement agencies procedure. Refer back to Step 3 to report potential crimes that do not negatively impact the good order of the school.



Principals may start contact with a law enforcement agency (LEA) by completing an LEA referral form. Information can be shared when reasonably satisfied the disclosure is necessary for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of a criminal offence or to assist in averting a serious risk to the life, health or safety of a person or where the disclosure is in the public interest. For access to the relevant forms, refer to Disclosing

Principals may continue to investigate the matter for disciplinary purposes, subject to all laws and department procedures.



Content may not constitute a criminal offence requiring police involvement but it may negatively impact the good order and management of the school. Principals can take action for the online behaviour as outlined below.

4. Take steps to remove the upsetting or inappropriate content

Request poster to remove, use online reporting tools or if assistance is required, contact the CSRM team or Office of eSafety Commissioner.

5. Managing student behaviour

Where the online behaviours of students do negatively impact the good order and management of the school, the principal must take appropriate follow-up action. Where appropriate:

- · take statutory disciplinary action to address cyberbullying:
- that occurs outside of school hours or school grounds that also negatively affects
 the good order and management of the school (e.g. where the conduct, threats,
 intimidation or abuse have created, or would likely create a risk of, substantial
 disruption within the school environment, or where the conduct, threats,
 intimidation or abuse has or might reach school premises);
- that is undertaken on or originating from school premises during school hours, or by means of use of school ICT, concerning other students, staff or members of the school community;
- **OR** use non-statutory options to deal with the matter, for example:
 - discussion with student's parents;student mediation;
 - apology;
 - ICT / mobile technology ban;
 - guidance referral.

6. Student welfare

Principals must consider and support the wellbeing of any student who is displaying apparent negative effects from cyberbullying, by means of offering the student guidance officer support.

7. Recording the incident on OneSchool

If the incident was resolved at school-level, record details of the incident, as reported to the school and investigated through the incident management process, in the student's OneSchool behaviour record.



Cybersafety and Reputation Management (CRM)

The Department of Education employs a dedicated team of experts to assist in maintaining the integrity of the department's reputation with regards to cybersafety and reputation management issues, effectively leading the development and implementation of departmental cybersafety processes.

This team provides **direct support for schools** to respond to concerns of inappropriate online behaviour and misuse of information and communication technology.

The team provides a <u>guide for parents</u> with important information about cybersafety and cyberbullying, and suggestions about what you can do if your child is a target or responsible for inappropriate online behaviour.

The team has also developed a <u>Cyberbullying and reputation management</u> (Department employees only) resource to assist principals in incident management.

For more information about cybersafety sessions at your school, or for assistance with issues relating to online behaviour, contact the <u>team</u> (Department employees only).

Student Intervention and Support Services

Kulpi State School recognises the need to provide intervention and support to all students involved in incidents of bullying, including cyberbullying.

Students who have been subjected or a witness to bullying are encouraged to approach any staff member with whom they feel comfortable sharing their concerns, regardless of their role in the school. All staff at Kulpi State School are familiar with the response expectations to reports of bullying, and will act quickly to ensure students' concerns are addressed. Depending on the nature of the reported bullying incident, a formal plan of action may be developed and documented to support the implementation of strategies to assist the student.

Students who engage in bullying behaviours towards others will also be provided with support to assist them to use more socially acceptable and appropriate behaviours in their interactions. This includes counselling, social development programs, referral to mental health services or involvement in a restorative justice strategy. School disciplinary measures may also be used to reinforce the seriousness with which the community takes all incidents of bullying. These measures may include internal school suspension, withdrawal from social events or celebrations or more severe punishments such as suspension or exclusion from school.





KULPI STATE SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Contract

The Anti-Bullying Contract provides a clear outline of the way our community at Kulpi State School works together to establish a safe, supportive and disciplined school environment. This contract is provided to all students and their parents upon enrolment, and may be revisited with individual students if particular problems around bullying arise.

We agree to work together to improve the quality of relationships in our community at Kulpi State School. It is through intentional consideration of our behaviour and communication that we can reduce the occurrence of bullying, and improve the quality of the schooling experience for everyone.

The agreed national definition for Australian schools describes bullying as:

- ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm;
- involving an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening;
- happening in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert);
- bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records);
- having immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystander
- single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying

We believe that no one deserves to be mistreated and that everyone regardless of race, colour, religion, immigration status, nationality, size, gender, popularity, athletic capability, academic outcomes, social ability, or intelligence has the right to feel safe, secure, and respected.

I agree to:

- Treat everyone with kindness and respect.
- Abide by the school's anti-bullying policies and procedures.
- Support individuals who have been bullied.
- Speak out against verbal, relational, physical bullying and cyber bullying.
- Notify a parent, teacher, or school administrator when bullying does occur.

Student's signature

Parent's signature

School representative signature

Date



Appropriate use of social media

The internet, mobile phones and social media provide wonderful opportunities for students to network and socialise online. While these technologies provide positive platforms for sharing ideas, they also have the potential to cause pain and suffering to individuals, groups or even whole communities.

It's important to remember that sometimes negative comments posted about the school community have a greater impact than expected. This guide offers some information about how to use social media in relation to comments or posts about the school community. Reputations of students, teachers, schools, principals and even parents can be permanently damaged — and in some cases, serious instances of inappropriate online behaviour are dealt with by police and the court system.

Being aware of a few simple strategies can help keep the use of social media positive and constructive:

- Before you post something online, ask yourself if the community or individual really need to know. Is it relevant, positive and helpful?
- Remember that what you post online is a direct reflection of who you are. People will potentially form lasting opinions of you based on what you post online.
- Be a good role model. If things get heated online consider logging out and taking a few moments to relax and think. Hasty, emotive responses could inflame situations unnecessarily.
- Be mindful when commenting, try to keep general and avoid posting anything that could identify individuals.
- A few years ago parents may have discussed concerns or issues with their friends at the school gate. Today with the use of social media, online discussions between you and your close friends can very quickly be shared with a much wider audience, potentially far larger than intended.
- Taking a few moments to think about the content you are about to post could save upset, embarrassment, and possible legal action.
- As a parent you have a role in supervising and regulating your child's online activities at home and its impact on the reputation and privacy of others. Parents are their child's first teachers so they will learn online behaviours from you.

Is it appropriate to comment or post about schools, staff or students?

Parental and community feedback is important for schools and the department. If you have a compliment, complaint or enquiry about an issue at school, the best approach is to speak directly to the school about the matter, rather than discussing it in a public forum.

While many schools use social media to update parents of school notices, the department prefers that parents contact schools directly with a compliment, complaint or enquiry due to privacy considerations.

If you have raised an issue with a school or know that another person has, consider refraining from discussing those details on social media, particularly the names of anyone involved.

Keep comments calm and polite, just as you would over the telephone or by email. If you encounter negative or derogatory content online which involves the school, hinders a child's learning and/or affects the school community at large, contact the school principal.



Possible civil or criminal ramifications of online commentary

A serious instance of inappropriate online behaviour may constitute a criminal offence and become a police matter. For example, online content may substantiate the offence of 'using a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence' (Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth) s. 474.17). School staff may contact their union or obtain personal legal advice if they feel that online content seriously impacts their reputation. Defamatory online content may give rise to litigation under the Defamation Act 2005 (Qld).

What about other people's privacy?

If you upload photos of your children, be mindful of who might be in the background. You might be happy to share your child's successes with your friends and family via social media, but some parents are not. If you are tagging or naming students, consider that other parents may not want their child's name attached to images online.

What if I encounter problem content?

Taking the following steps may help resolve the issue in a constructive way:

- refrain from responding
- take a screen capture or print a copy of the concerning online content
- if you consider problem content to be explicit, pornographic or exploitative of minors, you should keep a record of the URL of the page containing that content but NOT print or share it. The URL can be provided to the school principal, or police, as needed for escalation of serious concerns
- block the offending user
- report the content to the social media provider



Restrictive Practices

School staff at Kulpi State School need to respond to student behaviour that presents a risk of physical harm to the student themselves or others. It is anticipated that most instances of risky behaviour can be de-escalated and resolved quickly. On some rarer occasions, a student's behaviour may continue to escalate and staff need to engage immediately with positive and proactive strategies aimed at supporting the student to manage their emotional arousal and behaviour.

In some very rare situations, where there is immediate risk of physical harm to the student or other people, and when all other alternative strategies have failed to reduce the risk, it may be necessary for staff to use restrictive practices.

The use of restrictive practices will always be as a last resort, when there is no other available option for reducing immediate risk to the student, staff or other people. Restrictive practices are not used for punishment or as a disciplinary measure.

The department's **Restrictive practices procedure** is written with consideration for the protection of everyone's human rights, health, safety and welfare. There are six fundamental principles:

- 1. Regard to the human rights of those students
- 2. Safeguards students, staff and others from harm
- 3. Ensures transparency and accountability
- 4. Places importance on communication and consultation with parents and carers
- 5. Maximises the opportunity for positive outcomes, and
- 6. Aims to reduce or eliminate the use of restrictive practices.

Very rarely restrictive practices will be planned and staff will employ, when necessary, prearranged strategies and methods (of physical restraint/ mechanical restraint/ clinical holding) which are based upon behaviour risk assessment or clinical health need and are recorded in advance. The use of planned strategies will only be where there is foreseeable immediate risk consistent with the **Restrictive practices procedure**.

Seclusion will not be used as a planned response and will only be used in serious circumstances for managing an unforeseeable situation in an emergency. It will be used for the shortest time possible and in a safe area that presents no additional foreseeable risk to the student. In such emergencies, a staff member will observe the student at all times and seclusion will cease as soon as possible.

Following the use of any restrictive practice, a focused review will help staff to understand how they responded to the risk in any incident that involved the use of a restrictive practice. Staff will consider whether there are other options for managing a similar situation in the future. This strategy works well for reducing the use of restrictive practices.

All incidents of restrictive practices will be recorded and reported in line with departmental procedures.



Critical Incidents

It is important that all school staff have a consistent understanding of how to respond in emergencies involving student behaviour that seriously endangers the student or others. This consistency ensures that appropriate actions are taken to ensure that both students and staff are kept safe.

A critical incident is defined as an occurrence that is sudden, urgent, and usually unexpected, or an occasion requiring immediate action (e.g. in the community, on the road). The aim in these situations is to bring the behaviour of the student under rapid and safe control. It is not a time to try and to punish or discipline the student; it is a crisis management period only.

Staff should follow the documented plan for any student involved in regular critical incidents, which should be saved and available for staff to review in OneSchool.

For unexpected critical incidents, staff should use basic defusing techniques:

- 1. Avoid escalating the problem behaviour: Avoid shouting, cornering the student, moving into the student's space, touching or grabbing the student, sudden responses, sarcasm, becoming defensive, communicating anger and frustration through body language.
- 2. Maintain calmness, respect and detachment: Model the behaviour you want students to adopt, stay calm and controlled, use a serious measured tone, choose your language carefully, avoid humiliating the student, be matter of fact and avoid responding emotionally.
- 3. Approach the student in a non-threatening manner: Move slowly and deliberately toward the problem situation, speak privately to the student/s where possible, speak calmly and respectfully, minimise body language, keep a reasonable distance, establish eye level position, be brief, stay with the agenda, acknowledge cooperation, withdraw if the situation escalates.
- 4. Follow through: If the student starts displaying the appropriate behaviour briefly acknowledge their choice and re-direct other students' attention towards their usual work/activity. If the student continues with the problem behaviour, then remind them of the expected school behaviour and identify consequences of continued unacceptable behaviour.

Debrief: At an appropriate time when there is low risk of re-escalation, help the student to identify the sequence of events that led to the unacceptable behaviour, pinpoint decision moments during the sequence of events, evaluate decisions made, and identify acceptable decision options for future situations.



Related Procedures and Guidelines

These are related procedures or guidelines which school staff use to inform decisions and actions around matters associated with students wellbeing, behaviour and learning. *This may include reference to*:

- Cancellation of enrolment
- · Complex case management
- · Customer complaints management policy and procedure
- · Disclosing personal information to law enforcement agencies
- Enrolment in state primary, secondary and special schools
- Hostile people on school premises, wilful disturbance and trespass
- Inclusive education
- Police and Child Safety Officer interviews and searches with students
- Restrictive practices
- Refusal to enrol Risk to safety or wellbeing
- Student discipline
- Student dress code
- Student protection
- Supporting students' mental health and wellbeing
- Temporary removal of student property by school staff
- Use of ICT systems
- Using mobile devices

Resources

- Australian Professional Standards for Teachers
- Bullying. No Way!
- <u>eheadspace</u>
- Kids Helpline
- Office of the eSafety Commissioner
- Parentline
- Queensland Department of Education School Discipline
- Raising Children Network
- Student Wellbeing Hub

