




Maleny Independent School

"Our School. Opportunities Upon the Range"

Student Conduct and Behaviour Support Policy

Purpose:	The purpose of this policy is to outline the code of conduct expected of students attending the Maleny Independent School, and to outline support available.	
Scope:	This Policy applies to students at the Maleny Independent School; and covers information about expected behaviours and support provided.	
References:	• Maleny Independent School Anti-Bullying Behaviours Policy	
Status:	Rev001	Supersedes: Rev000
Authorised by:	Board Chair 	Date of Authorisation: 30 June 2018
Review Date:	Annually	Next Review Date: 12 months from date of authorisation
Policy Owner:	School Governing Body	

Policy

This Policy sets out the agreed premise that, at the Maleny Independent School every student has the right to learn and every teacher has the right to teach in a safe, calm and harmonious classroom environment.

Guidelines

The following guidelines apply to support the safety, well-being and effective education of each student:

- Students will treat themselves, others and property with respect, care and safety at all times.
- Students will remain under the supervision of a teacher during school hours.
- All students will respect their fellow students' right to learn and their teachers' right to teach in a calm, harmonious classroom environment.
- Students will adhere to community expectations and property boundary rules at all times.

Behaviours that will not be tolerated at the Maleny Independent School without an appropriate response include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive language
- Harassment
- Physical violence
- Intimidation
- Teasing
- Bullying
- Stealing
- The use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and other illegal and addictive substances
- Behaviour which disrupts the learning environment of a class
- Rudeness and bad manners
- Damaging of school or personal property
- Persistent tardiness or being unprepared for lessons

Consequences of Problematic Behaviour

The Maleny Independent School is committed to a behaviour procedure that focuses on the development of human dignity and positive relations. The use of Restorative Practices in dealing with disruptive or challenging behaviour assists students to understand the impact of their conduct on others and guides them in modifying their behaviour. A restorative chat or conference is the first step when dealing with any issue.

Wherever possible, a restorative solution will be sought. This may be a restorative chat and/or a full conference with parents and principal, depending on the severity of the transgression. The Restorative Conference follows a strict format and is used all over the world as a step to allow participants to take responsibility for their actions and to understand who has been impacted by their behaviour. Restorative consequences that are linked with the misdemeanour will be agreed upon. An agreement is reached and signed by all parties. This usually resolves the issue.

If a restorative agreement is broken, further consequences will come into play. The teacher, and/or Principal will notify the student and parents and a meeting will follow. Depending on the severity of issue, the Principal may decide on:

- Formal suspension - In-school suspension or external suspension;
- Probation; and
- Expulsion

Formal Suspension

A student can be formally suspended only by a decision of the Principal. A suspension will not normally last for longer than a week.

The Principal may decide on an in-school suspension whereby the student would attend school during normal school hours but would be isolated from his/her class and an alternative program arranged.

Alternatively, the Principal may determine that external suspension is more appropriate whereby a student is given work to do at home and is asked to consider his/her situation at the school. The student would be required to provide written answers to certain questions. For example: *What do you find difficult at school? What kind of relationship would you like to have with your teachers and fellow students? What would make a difference to you? What could the other students do to make this a better school for you? What could you do to make this school a better place?*

Before returning to school and/or normal classes, the student will meet with the Principal to talk about the situation and to submit answers to the above questions. If the Principal is satisfied that the student's responses are genuine, the student is asked to return and may be given an additional task to show his/her good intentions.

If a student is suspended staff will discuss the student's situation and see if there are any changes that could be implemented to help support the student and meet his/her needs better in the future. This may involve a recommendation for counselling.

Probation

After a suspension, the student will be placed on a probationary period and the Principal will review the student's place in the school. If, in the opinion of the Principal, there is little or no improvement, or prospect of improvement, the Principal reserves the right to cancel the student's enrolment at the school.

Expulsion

A student may be expelled when they:

- Abuse or threaten any member of the school community or school property.
- Behave in such a way as to constitute a danger to the health of any staff member, student or any other person assisting in the conduct of school activities
- Commit an act of significant violence or cause significant damage or destruction to property, or are knowingly involved in the theft of property
- Possess, use or deliberately assist others to use illegal drugs or substances.
- Fail to comply with any reasonable and clearly communicated instruction of a teacher
- Consistently behave in a manner that interferes with the educational opportunities of any other student or students
- Behaves in a way that threatens the good order of the school's program or facility
- Engage in unacceptable discriminatory behaviour (including harassment) toward another person based on sex, race (including colour, nationality and ethnic or national origin), marital status, the status or condition of being a parent/guardian, the status or condition of being childless, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or physical or mental disability or impairment, or gender preference.

In exceptional circumstances where, in the opinion of the Principal, the good order of the school is being threatened (e.g. drugs, violence etc.), the school reserves the right to expel a student without going through a suspension process.