

Discipline Policy

Vision Statement:

The purpose of Pacific Hills Christian School is to provide a Christian educational community as a centre of teaching and learning excellence, founded on Biblically-based beliefs, values and behaviour.

Rationale:

Discipline is a God-given responsibility of parents and carers and is an essential part of developing the whole child.

In our context Discipline is focussed upon dealing with behaviour that is harmful to self or to others or that is unhelpful to the development of Christian community. However, in dealing with such behaviour the relationship with individuals, encompassed by the Pastoral Care Principles of Communion in Christ, Reflection of His will for us and Service to others, should never be broken or withdrawn.

With the purpose of strengthening the community, discipline will clarify our common vision in Christ, will test and strengthen the givens (ground rules, or policies) for how we should live together, will consider the needs of each individual in our community, and will restore relationships to bring a new level of commitment.

Values and Mission Goals:

In personal Christian life: Goals a), c), d), and e). These relate to knowing God in all endeavours, to live under the authority of His Word, to bring students into reconciled relationship with Him through Christ, and to work in partnership with others in the Body of Christ to these ends.

In the process of Christian education: Goals b), and c). These relate to equipping our student's to understand God's perspective in all areas of learning and achieving their God-given potential in this process.

In Christian community life: Goals a), b), c), e), f) and g). These relate to our relationships at all levels of our School being explicitly taught and practiced as just, fair, merciful, respectful and service-oriented, in a spirit of unity.

In striving for excellence: Goals a) and b). These relate to training students into a life of stewardship.

Policy:

At Pacific Hills Christian School Discipline will be administered as an integral part of Pastoral Care to disciple (train and nurture) students to be Christ-like in their love of others and of oneself, to be mature in their response to authority and in their respect in relationships, and to be committed to the welfare of the community.

Related Policies:

This policy is derived from the Pastoral Care policy.

- Safe Schools: (Anti-Discrimination; Anti-Violence; Anti-drugs; Anti-Bullying; Child Protection)

Principles:

1. Discipline of children is the responsibility of Parents and is implemented at School under their delegated authority.
2. Discipline, as practiced at PHCS, is based upon the two tenets of respect for authority and proper use of authority. Thus, discipline will be administered with justice and fairness and should involve obvious due process under the responsibility of the Principal.
3. The basic code of conduct at PHCS for all members of the community is that each will respect the other; that each will act kindly and courteously towards others; that each will not force themselves or anything that they own physically, verbally or emotionally on others; that each will do as asked; and that each has the privilege, if done respectfully, to ask questions of another. This code can be summarized by the five key words of respect, kindness, non-abuse, obedience and understanding.
4. Discipline may involve exhortation, guidance, instruction, training and the implementation of consequences. All parties need to be committed to listening to each other in order to achieve repentance, restitution, resolution and reconciliation.
5. In conformity with the requirements of the Education Reform (School Discipline) Act 1995, corporal punishment is not used at PHCS.

Procedural Guidelines

There are detailed procedures for each section of the school, which can be obtained from the respective Heads of School. The basic flow of these is as follows:

- Each sub-school has its own acronym to summarise and remind students of general expectations – 3 P's in Junior School; ROCK in Middle School and; ABC in Senior School.
- The procedures should address two general situations – events in the classroom, and events in the playground.
- Classroom discipline is primarily the responsibility of the teacher, who is expected to keep parents informed early of any patterns of difficulty or critical incidents. There are support systems in place to help classroom teachers when students are not responsive to their efforts (through home room teacher, pastoral care teachers to year advisors to Heads of School, who can also recommend involvement of the Assistant Principals).
- Persistent issues of classroom behaviour requiring discipline should be referred to the Homeroom Teacher for Middle School students and the Year Advisor for Junior and Senior School students.
- Issues should be followed up and be documented within a week.
- Serious misbehaviour and Critical Incidents should not be handled individually – the offending student should be removed from the situation, or if that is not possible, be isolated from other students while support is obtained from the Sub-school office.
- All teaching staff should familiarise themselves with the Pastoral Care Slips and discipline procedures that are use in each of the sub-schools. The Pastoral Care Slips should be taken to all duties and classes.

Related Procedures

- Issuing Pastoral Care Slips
- Incident reports
- In class protocol
- Out off class protocol