Peace and Positive Behaviour Policy

Revised & Adopted: 31st March 2014
Review Date: March 2017

Rationale

St Monica’s Primary School is a community of faith and life in which the total development of the whole person is the focus. As a Catholic school, St Monica’s works in partnership with parents, caregivers and parish in providing an educational environment which is rich in Catholic identity and heritage; safe, secure and peaceful; sound in academic learning and supportive of personal growth.

Values

“In all things may God be glorified”

The St Monica’s Peace and Positive Behaviour Policy gives expression to the following values, inherent in the creation of a school community of faith and life which is characterized by a happy, safe, secure and caring environment.

The school values courtesy, dignity, acceptance, inclusivity, compassion, care, support, respect, right relationships, co-operation, patience, personal choice and responsibility, justice and reconciliation.

Policy Statement

St. Monica’s Primary School is committed to the development and maintenance of a school community that values and fosters peaceful and caring relationships signified by positive social behaviour and personal responsibility. All members of the school community are blessed with the gift of free choice. As such, they will strive to respect the rights of others and to accept responsibility for their own behaviour choices. Members will learn from the experiences of living with the consequences of their behaviour choices.
Understandings

1. All members of the school community feel safe, happy and able to learn or work free from the effects of negative behaviour.
2. Peaceful, courteous and respectful relationships are a feature of our school community.
3. Community members accept their responsibilities to behave in socially appropriate ways.
4. Community members learn from the experience of making choices.
5. Positive behaviour choices will be recognized and affirmed.
6. Negative behaviour choices will be responded to appropriately.
7. The school operates in an orderly and productive fashion.
8. Community members are supported in learning right from wrong.
9. Community members experience reconciliation and forgiveness.
10. Wrongdoing is addressed while respect for all parties involved is maintained through restorative justice practices.

Guidelines

Refer to the documents: ‘A student’s rights and responsibilities’; ‘A staff member’s rights and responsibilities’ and ‘A parent’s rights and responsibilities’. These documents are available from the School Office.

The school will employ a range of proactive strategies to encourage peace and positive behavior which may include but is not limited to:

- Provide incentives to reward positive behaviour.
- Identify particular positive behaviours for weekly focus.
- Acknowledge initiative shown by students.
- Employ strategies to actively engage and motivate students and their learning.
- Use the newsletter to publicise positive behaviours to be focused upon.
- Use role-plays in classrooms to reinforce positive behaviour situations.
- Teach and reinforce good manners/etiquette.
- Model welcoming and inclusive behaviour.
- Use buddy/mentoring opportunities amongst the student population.
- Teach expected behaviour standards for differing situations.
- Teach the list of School Rules.
- Provide professional development for staff in the area of Behaviour Management.
- Offer parenting skills information to parents/caregivers.
- Employ quality classroom organization strategies.
- Employ quality and effective planning, teaching, assessment and reporting practices within classrooms.
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- Attempt to provide for the educational needs of students with a diverse range of interests, abilities and motivations.
- Provide students with a range of activities for unstructured break times in the playground.
- Provide adequate staff numbers and active supervision during unstructured break times in the playground.
- Provide relief staff with expectations and procedures relating to student behaviour in both classroom and playground settings.
- Develop a culture and commitment to shared responsibility for positive behaviour.

The school will employ a range of approaches to lessen and address negative behaviour issues and their effect on individuals and the school community which may include but is not limited to:

- All teachers will develop, display and enact a classroom behaviour plan consistent with this school policy. The plan will ensure uniformity and consistency of classroom behaviour management throughout the school. Refer to School Document – Classroom Behaviour Management.
- Where students make significant poor behaviour choices, teachers will notify parents.
- Keep uniform and accurate records of significant negative behaviour issues.
- Restorative justice strategies will be employed to address wrongdoing whilst respect is afforded to parties affected by behaviour choices.
- Where a student displays patterns of poor behaviour choices in the classroom, the teacher will involve the parents in addressing the situation. Where there is no improvement, the principal will be notified as a behaviour modification plan specific to this individual student may be necessary. Support from Catholic Education Office staff may be requested in this case.
- The school will endeavour to help resource parents/caregivers with contact names and numbers of individuals/agencies/programs which may assist students in bringing about positive changes to classroom behaviour.
- The school will develop, display and enact a playground behaviour plan consistent with this school policy. This plan will ensure uniformity and consistency of playground behaviour management throughout the school. Refer School Document Playground Behaviour Management.
- Where a student displays patterns of poor behaviour choices in the playground, the principal will involve the parents in addressing the situation. Where there is no improvement, the principal or delegate will initiate this process. Support from Catholic Education Office staff may be requested in this case.
- The school will endeavour to help resource parents/caregivers with contact names and numbers of individuals/agencies/programs, which may assist students in bringing about positive changes to playground behaviour.
- In situations where a student continues to disregard the values and behaviour expectations of the school within the classroom or on the playground, short term internal or external suspensions may be imposed at the principal’s discretion.
Parents/caregivers will be strongly encouraged to work with the school in addressing their child’s negative behaviour choices by seeking outside specialist help, participating in courses and enacting approaches and procedures at home which support the school attempts to bring about positive behaviours.

Where a home/school partnership for behaviour support is absent or where behaviour support has been ineffective and where the school has taken reasonable and concerted steps over a significant period of time to assist a student and the student continues to display disregard for the values and behaviour expectations of the school within the classroom or in the playground, the principal may seek permission from the Director of Catholic Education to withdraw student enrolment.

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Roland Poulton                      David Totenhofer
Principal                          Board Chair
31st March 2014                     31st March 2014