



## Discipline Policy

### Overview

1. Sydney Science College (the School) is a community founded upon mutual respect, shared responsibility, and a commitment to excellence, wellbeing and the fostering of positive relationships. The actions of all members of our school community should be safe for all concerned, and students must behave in a manner that is at all times lawful, considerate of others and a good reflection on themselves, their family and the School, consistently upholding the ethos and expectations of our community.
2. Our School values help guide our behaviour towards ourselves and others. Sydney Science College is committed to encouraging positive behaviour through ongoing guidance, support, and character-building programs. The Discipline Policy complements these efforts by outlining procedures for addressing behaviour that does not align with our school values.
3. At Sydney Science College, discipline is a positive process, which enables students to participate as productive, responsible members of the community. An important part of education is to develop effective self-regulation so that at all times students behave in a manner that is safe, legal and considerate.
4. We aim to empower students to become self-directed, independent learners, and confident, mature, and socially responsible young adults of integrity who are ready to make a positive impact on the world. Our proactive approach to wellbeing ensures there is a network of academic and holistic support available to students through their Teachers, Peer Support leaders, Teacher-Mentors, and Principal. Positive and respectful relationships, independence and problem solving skills matter in life, work and university and this learning happens at school.

### Scope

5. This policy applies to Sydney Science College students.

### Guiding principles

6. The guiding principles in the Discipline Policy emphasise encouragement and acknowledgement of positive behaviour to create an environment where every student will:
  - (a) Be able to learn and actively engage in a safe, caring, supportive and inclusive environment without being disturbed by others. All students should be familiar with our approach to dealing with bullying (see below);
  - (b) Show courtesy and consideration to other students, teachers and visitors;
  - (c) Take responsibility for moving promptly to class, respecting the right of other students to learn and the teacher's to teach without interruption;
  - (d) Care for their environment by leaving classrooms and school facilities in a tidy and neat state and reporting damage to the teacher;
  - (e) Show pride in their school by taking care of their appearance, arriving well groomed and with well-maintained clothing and shoes appropriate for the situation; and
  - (f) Respond to communications promptly and in a respectful manner.
7. No member of the School community is permitted to engage in any form of corporal punishment on behalf of the School.
8. Expulsion will only occur as a last resort after all other avenue have been exhausted and when:
  - (a) The duty of care to other children and/or staff is impeded and therefore outweighs the rights of the offending student to remain within the School.
  - (b) No compromise can be reached enabling the values of the School to be upheld with the student remaining within the School.

### **Consequences for unacceptable behaviour**

9. Behaviour management is part of our proactive wellbeing program. The value of 'responsibility' reminds students that they are accountable for their own actions. While the School believes that a list of rules is contrary to our endeavour to have students develop effective self-discipline, it is important to articulate our expectations.
10. The welfare of each student in the School is a shared responsibility among all staff members, with the student's assigned teacher mentor playing a central role in overseeing both their academic progress and wellbeing. The mentor teacher is supported in this endeavour by the Head of Student Wellbeing, Assistant Principal and Principal as the circumstances dictate. Severe or ongoing misdemeanours will be managed by the Principal in consultation with the student's parents.

### **Serious breaches of conduct**

11. Any serious breach of conduct including, but not limited to misuse of school devices or networks, smoking, vaping, drinking, illegal drug taking or dealing, stealing, cheating, bullying, truancy or endangering the health, safety and wellbeing of others will lead to an interview with the Principal and/or their delegate, and the student's parents. Suspension or expulsion may result and the police may be involved.
12. When making such serious decisions about a student continuing at the School, all efforts will be made to ensure a process of procedural fairness is used. Every endeavour will be made to ensure the use of an unbiased decision making process.
13. While each case will be determined by the specific circumstances, the following guidelines will be implemented as appropriate:
  - (a) The Principal and/or their delegate will discreetly and in a timely manner gather all available information to determine what occurred. This will most likely involve initial interviews with student/s and staff.
  - (b) The services of the School Counsellor and/ or other counselling agencies will be made available to the student and parents.
  - (c) The student and their parent/s will be informed.
  - (d) The student will be interviewed by the Principal and/or their delegate and another senior member of staff with the parent or trusted adult present. During such an interview the Principal will inform those present as to the nature of the allegations and will hear the student's version of events. A right of reply from the student will be given.
14. After consideration of all available information, the Principal will decide the consequences of such actions and inform the student and parents. The above procedure must take into account the age of the child, the location of the incident (school, camp, excursion or overseas), the timing of the incident/s in the School calendar, and the urgency of other matters. All information and actions will be documented and confidentiality will be maintained wherever possible.