The Code of School Behaviour

Better Behaviour Better Learning

Queensland state schools promote learning, creativity and innovation as the platform upon which to build prosperity and quality of life for all Queenslanders. State schools are strongly committed to providing a quality, futures-oriented education that enables all students to achieve their full potential. They prepare students for an active role in democratic life and society. High expectations, equity, inclusiveness and the building of social capital are key features of state schooling in Queensland.

Essential to effective learning is a safe, supportive and disciplined environment that respects the following rights:

- The rights of all students to learn
- The rights of teachers to teach
- The rights of all to be safe.

The Code of School Behaviour defines the responsibilities that all members of the school community are expected to uphold and recognises the significance of appropriate and meaningful relationships.

It outlines a consistent standard of behaviour for all state school communities in Queensland, inclusive of students, staff and parents. The Code has been developed to deliver the best possible outcomes for students, recognising the close relationship between learning, achievement and behaviour.

School communities will use The Code as a basis for providing:

- positive support to promote high standards of achievement and behaviour
- clearly articulated responses and consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

Each school will detail particular strategies to promote appropriate behaviour as well as consequences for unacceptable behaviour within its Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students.

Proposed legislation will provide for an “enrolment agreement” from 1 July 2006. On enrolment, all parties will be expected to sign this agreement, including students (where appropriate), parents/carers and principals. This agreement will require all parties to abide by The Code of School Behaviour and other endorsed conditions stipulated by the school.

State Schools Shaping the Smart State
Consequences for Unacceptable Student Behaviour

Student behaviour that does not comply with the expected standards is not acceptable. The Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students will set out the range and level of responses and consequences for student behaviour that is not consistent with these standards.

Consequences are to be applied to:
- provide the opportunity for all students to learn
- ensure the safety of staff and students
- assist students who exhibit challenging behaviours to accept responsibility for themselves and their actions.

In applying consequences for unacceptable student behaviour, the individual circumstances and actions of the student and the needs and rights of school community members will be considered at all times.

Schools use a range of consequences that are authorised by Education Queensland which include:
- suspensions
- exclusions
- cancellations of enrolment.

These consequences are to be used after consideration has been given to all other responses. Access to alternative programs and input from other agencies may be necessary for students who repeatedly do not comply with expected standards of behaviour.

Schools are expected to:
- provide safe and supportive learning environments
- provide inclusive and engaging curriculum and teaching
- initiate and maintain constructive communication and relationships with students and parents/carers
- promote the skills of responsible self-management.

Principals are expected to:
- play a strong leadership role in implementing and communicating The Code in the school community
- ensure consistency and fairness in implementing the school's Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students
- communicate high expectations for individual achievement and behaviour
- review and monitor the effectiveness of school practices and their impact on student learning
- support staff in ensuring compliance with The Code and facilitate professional development to improve the skills of staff to promote responsible behaviour.

Regional Executive Directors or Executive Directors (Schools) are expected to:
- endorse the school's Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students that aligns with The Code and complies with legislation
- ensure that school plans are implemented consistently, fairly and reasonably
- exercise leadership in support of school principals’ responsibilities under The Code and promote improvement of the professional skills of principals accordingly.

The Senior Management Team of Education Queensland is expected to:
- determine policy directions and monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of resource allocations and services to support responsible behaviour throughout Queensland schools.