

<b>Section:</b>	Relationships with Children		
<b>Policy:</b>	Student Discipline Policy	<b>Policy Number</b>	5.1
<b>Quality Area/s</b>	5	<b>Policy Linked to</b>	
<b>Last Reviewed</b>	Feb 2015; July 2016; April 2023	<b>Next review date</b>	
<b>Modifications</b>	Reviewed Policy		

## INTRODUCTION

Karuna Montessori School recognises the unique value of each child and the importance of ensuring the healthy and emotional development of each child.

Discipline is reinforced using positive initiatives and incentives with regard to the student/students concerned. This policy is consistent with the Education Reform Amendment (Corporal Punishment) Act 1995.

Underlying our practices are fundamental principles of human respect and dignity, and fair treatment. It is every person's right to expect to be treated according to these principles. We are also conscious of a need to attend to gender equity and anti-harassment. A right can only be enjoyed when everyone acts responsibly.

We aim to teach students that mutual rights are essential if we are to cooperate with one another at school in such a way as to enable good learning in the classroom and to construct a social environment around the school. Student behaviour should reflect our school philosophy and adhere to our policy and procedure on Appropriate Behaviour (5.3)

Students are required to abide by the Appropriate Behaviour Policy and Procedure (5.3) and to follow the directions of teachers and other people with authority delegated by the School.

Where a student disregards rules, disobeys instructions or otherwise engages in conduct which causes or may cause harm, inconvenience or embarrassment to the School, staff members or other students, the students may be subject to disciplinary action.

All disciplinary action that may result in any sanction against the student including suspension, expulsion or exclusion provides processes based on procedural fairness. The duration of a suspension or exclusion is at the discretion of the Principal/Nominated Supervisor.

The school's approach to discipline and behaviour management is outlined in the Behaviour Management Procedure (5.2), Procedure for Managing Inappropriate Behaviour Policy (5.2.1), and the Appropriate Behaviour Policy and Procedure (5.3).

The disciplinary procedures undertaken by the school vary according to the seriousness of the alleged offence. Where the allegation, if proven, may result in suspension or expulsion, the student and Parents/Caregivers /caregivers will be informed of the allegations and procedural steps to be followed in dealing with the matter.

In relation to all matters to be investigated, students and Parents/Caregivers will be informed of the nature of the allegation and given an opportunity to respond to the allegations. Students may be asked to stay away from the school while the matter is being dealt with.

The penalties imposed vary according to the behaviour and the prior record of the student. At the lower end of the scale, an admonition may be appropriate. At the upper end of the scale, the behaviour could result in suspension or expulsion. The school prohibits the use of corporal punishment in disciplining students attending the School.

The school does not explicitly or implicitly sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons, including Parents/Caregivers, to enforce discipline at the school.

Where the offending behaviour is of such a nature that it may result in suspension or expulsion, the student and Parents/Caregivers will be:

- informed of the alleged infringement;
- informed as to who will make the decision on the penalty;
- informed of the procedures to be followed which will include an opportunity to have a parent or guardian present when responding to the allegations; and
- afforded a right of review of appeal.

Parents/Caregivers will be involved in the processes of procedural fairness for suspension and expulsion.

Review options include:

#### **Option 1**

The Principal/Nominated Supervisor will reach a preliminary decision in relation to the allegation and any proposed penalty and advise the student (and parent/s) of the view. The student (and parent/s) would be advised that if they wish this preliminary decision to be reviewed, they may make an application for a review to the Principal/Nominated Supervisor and submit any information they want to be considered during the review process. The Principal/Nominated Supervisor will then either confirm the preliminary decision as a final decision or amend the preliminary decision based on the additional information provided; or

#### **Option 2**

The Executive Committee will reach a decision in relation to the allegation and recommend the penalty to be imposed by the Principal/Nominated Supervisor. The Parents/Caregivers will be informed of the finding and recommendation and may make representations to the Principal/Nominated Supervisor in respect of the finding and recommendation. The Principal/Nominated Supervisor then makes a final decision on the proposed penalty.