



JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL SCHOOL

SCHOOL | FAMILY | COMMUNITY

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John Hunter Children's Hospital

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NEW LAMBTON HEIGHTS NSW 2305

School Discipline Policy

Statement of Purpose

All students and teachers have the right to be treated fairly and with dignity in an environment free from disruption, intimidation, harassment and discrimination.

John Hunter Hospital School is committed to promoting the highest standards of behaviour and learning. Students at John Hunter Hospital School are provided with a high quality education so that they learn to the best of their ability and become self-disciplined, tolerant, enterprising and contributing members of the school and community.

This policy is consistent with legal and departmental requirements, is based on the principles of procedural fairness and developed within a framework of student welfare. Staff, parents and students have been consulted to ensure that it reflects the particular needs of our school community.

John Hunter Hospital School takes a positive approach to student discipline. Our discipline policy identifies core rules and practices that support quality teaching and learning. It sets clear limits, recognises and promotes positive behaviour as well as applying consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

Core Rules

John Hunter Hospital School has developed a set of "Core Rules" based on the Behaviour Code for Students NSW public schools. These are: Respect, Safety and Engagement.

We recognise the significant influence parents have on their children's character and behaviour and the importance of working in partnership with them in supporting the core rules our school has established.

Students at John Hunter Hospital School will:

- Attend school every day unless they have a justified reason for being absent
- Arrive at lessons on time and be prepared to participate in learning
- Maintain a neat appearance
- Behave in a safe considerate and responsible manner. This includes travel to and from school
- Be respectful at all times to teachers, students and support staff
- Comply with classroom rules
- Be courteous at all times and co-operate with teacher instruction and learning activities
- Treat all members of the school community with dignity and respect
- Take care of property, the schools and others
- Do not harass, bully, interfere with the safety of others or engage in any illegal or anti-social behaviour of any kind. Harassment and victimisation of students with disabilities or any student who has an associate with a disability is prohibited. [Compliance with Disabilities Standards for Education (2005)]

Strategies and Practices to promote Positive Student Behaviour including Specific Strategies to maintain a Climate of Respect:

- Maintaining a bright, attractive school area
- Giving students choices in learning activities
- Encouraging peer support and co-operative learning
- Providing appropriate curricula for students in the hospital setting using "hands on" learning activities wherever possible
- Giving students clear explanations and expectations
- Focusing on the use of technology across key learning areas
- Ensuring success and enjoyment in the provision of appropriate learning activities, which consider the student's current health status
- Encouraging students to maintain contact with their home schools via email
- Maintaining communication with home school and parents to ensure continuity of education and minimal disruption to students' learning

- The use of encouragement praise and positive comments when students are working well
- Friendly, caring and supportive staff
- The use of modelling by school staff to encourage consideration of others in the hospital ward situation
- The reinforcement of respect for school and hospital resources and property by comment and practice
- Redirecting students' attention or changing activities when they become restless or they distract other students
- Staff attendance at Professional Development programs in student welfare issues
- Regular and ongoing consultation with hospital and medical personnel regarding the welfare of students
- Support and promotion of ward protocol by school staff in their everyday practices
- Involvement of parents, carers and siblings as appropriate in the lessons and activities provided by the hospital school

Strategies and Practices to Recognise and Reinforce Student Achievement

- Staff modelling consistent, respectful and caring behaviour when dealing with students, parents, visitors and other hospital personnel.
- Providing immediate positive feedback to students, care givers and ward staff about students' efforts and achievements
- Use of rewards such as merit stickers, certificates and awards or choosing a special activity as a reward
- Displays of students' work in the hospital school and ward areas
- Reporting to parents and home schools, both formally and informally on students' efforts and achievements
- Using the newsletter and Hospital Kaleidoscope Magazine to publish articles about student achievements

Strategies and Practices to Manage Inappropriate Student Behaviour

- Teaching and modelling acceptable behaviour and appropriate language
- Verbal correction of unacceptable behaviour rather than the student
- Reinforcement of acceptable and desired behaviour and language
- Inclusion of family members, carers and other staff, in reinforcing positive behaviour and in behaviour management strategies

- Diverting student's attention back to the task or to another activity
- Giving immediate praise when a student is using appropriate behaviour and language
- Ensuring a team approach to counselling, ie. consultation with hospital social worker, medical staff and school counsellor
- Staff training and development in appropriate student welfare issues and behaviour management strategies

Strategies for Dealing with On Going or Extreme Forms of Unacceptable Behaviour

If the unacceptable behaviour or language continues and warrants further action, staff will use the following strategies in combination with those outlined in the previous section:

- Using time out from an activity
- Removal from class for a period (work in room)
- Removal of privileges for a specified period, in consultation with other staff and care givers
- Counselling and behaviour management plans organised in consultation with all stakeholders
- Violent or reckless behaviour, which endangers the safety of others or injures others is to be immediately reported to the nursing unit manager. An incident form for the hospital and Department of Education and Training is to be completed and sent via the appropriate channels.

Responsibilities

Principals

Principals are accountable through their Directors, Public Schools for ensuring a safe, secure and harmonious work environment for students and staff.

Parents

Parents are expected to support the school in the implementation of the school discipline policy

Teachers

Teachers are expected to participate in the development of the school discipline policy and to support its effective implementation

Students

Students are expected to follow the discipline code or school rules and to comply with staff directions regarding discipline and appropriate behaviour.

Students will show respect for teachers, fellow students, other staff and school visitors and not engage in any form of harassment, victimisation or intimidation.