PARENT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION. TERM TWO 2010

MANAGEMENT OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

Catholic Education Office of Melbourne Policy 2.26 and the Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools states, “Student behaviour management policies and procedures in Catholic schools should seek to protect personal and school community safety, heal destructive behaviours, restore relationships, encourage reconciliation, enhance wellbeing, foster responsibility, enable personal growth, and promote the common good.”

This is the current discipline plan for Our Lady Help of Christians School that is given to teachers at the beginning of each year. Teachers use this procedure each day to ensure that a clear and consistent process has been followed with the children and that learning can take place, unimpeded by poor or interruptive behaviour.

WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF A GOOD CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE PLAN?
- RULES that children follow at all times.
- REWARDS for children who choose to follow the rules.
- CONSEQUENCES for children who choose not to follow the rules

RULES
- Same for all so there is consistency across the school.
- Must be taught from day one of & reinforced regularly.
- Must be on display in class

REWARDS
- Praise comes first, always.
- Encourage appropriate behaviour to reduce inappropriate behaviour
- Help to establish a positive classroom environment with positive relationship between students and teacher.
- May be individual or whole class, or both.

CONSEQUENCES
- Consistency across school
- Are not physically or psychologically harmful
- Are presented as a choice for the student, “You need to ... or you will be choosing to sit by yourself away from the group.”
- Do not need to be severe to be effective
- Are listed as a discipline hierarchy, in the order they will be applied.
- Require a tracking system, in order to monitor student misbehaviour

CLASSROOM RULES (SAME FOR EACH GRADE, ACROSS SCHOOL)
1. Follow Directions
2. Use your hands, feet and objects in an appropriate way
3. Listen without interruption
4. Speak appropriately
5. Treat all property with care
6. Move safely around the school

REWARDS / POSITIVE RECOGNITION (make class list, by self or negotiated with class)
e.g. Stickers
Positive note to parent
Send to principal for positive recognition / principal certificate / sticker
5-15 mins free time, computer time, quiet play
Certificate
Teacher helper for day / week
Drawing / art activity
SCHOOL CONSEQUENCE HIERARCHY
1. Warning
2. Time out away from group, continue working.
3. Time out in designated area in class, continue working.
4. Removal from class to neighbouring teacher, complete a reflection sheet, and make up lost time during recess / lunch.
5. Send to Principal (1st option) / Deputy Principal (2nd option)
6. Meeting with Principal

SOME TEACHER STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING BEHAVIOUR
1) Teach the Discipline Plan to the class
2) Get Students on task
   - Positive recognition
3) Keep students on task
   - Praise
   - Scanning
   - Circulating
   - Reward system
     - Personal
     - Whole class
4) Dealing with Off-task behaviour
   - The look
   - Physical proximity
   - Using student’s name
   - Proximity praise
   - Follow consequence hierarchy.
   - Move in / Move out technique
5) Procedures Followed
   - Give warning
   - Give choice, redirect behaviour or child chooses first consequence
   - Apply consequences hierarchy
6) Handling difficult situations
   - Refocusing technique
   - Drop down technique
   - Severe Clause (straight to Principal / Deputy Principal)
7) When the discipline plan isn’t working
   - Problem Solving Conference
   - Parent Meeting
   - Individualised Behaviour Plan
   - Principal / Deputy Principal support

Other discipline strategies at Our Lady Help of Christians:

Rewards:
- God Moment Awards / W.E.S.T Badges
- Playground Awards

Consequences: Pink Slips / Red Slips
- Pink slip: issued for strong inappropriate behaviour, such as fighting, swearing, damaging property, open defiance.
- Red slip: issued when bullying is evident.
- 3 pink slips / 1 red slip in a term: classroom teacher phones parents to organise a meeting to discuss child’s behaviour. Principal to be involved.
- Individualised Behaviour Plan introduced by teacher as required
- Final step, if deemed necessary, suspension / expulsion considered and discussed with teacher / parent / negotiated transfer / C.E.O (expulsion)

NB: Under no circumstances will corporal punishment be administered to any student at our school.

The process that we follow at Our Lady Help Of Christians School is based upon the “ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE” program which has come from the United States of America and is used in Special Education Schools to deal with the management of student behaviour. The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne has such a school in Melbourne called Larmenier, and the staff at Our Lady Help Of Christians School have received professional development in these techniques as well as current, ongoing support by Larmenier personnel.