



Student Pastoral Management (Discipline) Policy

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1. Purpose

Covenant Christian School's (the School) main task is the education and socialisation of children, so that each student can achieve his or her potential. An effective learning environment is crucial for this; and every member of the School community has the responsibility to respect the rights of others to learn and work to the best of their ability.

The welfare of children at the School and the Early Learning Centre (ELC) is foundational to their training in Christian attitudes and behaviour. It therefore includes nurturing, building, encouraging and supporting, training, direction and correction.

The School's Student Pastoral Management (Discipline) Policy describes the philosophy followed by the School in restoring a student to responsible behaviour, both personally and within the community, and to train and guide them in appropriate self-discipline. The Student Pastoral Management (Discipline) Procedures provide more information and step by step instructions for the use of teachers and the Principal.

2. Vision and Mission Statements

Vision:

In dependence on God's grace, Covenant Christian School will nurture and equip students with a heart to glorify God by serving Him and living according to His Word.

Mission:

Covenant Christian School is a safe, caring and loving community. In partnership with parents we cultivate Christian character in our students and equip them to joyfully serve God and contribute positively to society.

This will be achieved through a Christ-centred approach where the gospel is central. God's Word is applied to all areas of learning and experience. Students and staff are challenged, encouraged and supported to love learning and pursue excellence to the glory of God.

3. Underlying Philosophy of Student Pastoral Management

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim 3:16-17)

The first and great commandment says – "Love the Lord your God with all heart, soul, mind, strength." - Matthew 22:37-40

The second is like the first, "Love thy neighbour as thyself." - Matthew 22:37-40.

"Esteem others better than yourself...Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." - Philippians 2:3-4.

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" - Romans 12:21.

"Be kindly affectionate to one another... in honour giving preference to one another." - Romans 12:10.

"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them..." – Matthew 7:12

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honour your father and mother' – which is the first commandment with a promise – 'that it may go well with you and that you may

enjoy long life on the earth.' Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." – Ephesians 6 1-4

a. *The Centrality of the Home and Parental Responsibility*

The home is crucial in determining behavioural patterns, and the School's task can be either assisted or hindered by the approach to discipline adopted in the home. Parents are instructed by God's Word

to "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). They are to keep their children under control. They are also to correct them with love, and not exasperate them (Ephesians 6:4).

In view of their responsibility before God, parents should be made fully aware of the School's Student Pastoral Management (Discipline) policy. Parents sending their children to Covenant Christian School will be asked to confirm their support for the policy during the initial enrolment. This agreement will be noted on the enrolment form. Parents will be notified of any subsequent substantive changes to the policy.

Teachers and parents together have the privilege and responsibility to train children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

b. *Specific Aims of Student Pastoral Management*

1. To develop in each student appropriate standards of behaviour and attitudes according to Scriptural principles.
2. To encourage in our students, through self-discipline, appropriate Christian life goals.
3. To train our students to accept responsibility, before God, for their own actions.
4. To foster a caring attitude toward others and toward the created world around us.
5. To encourage mature thinking in our students enabling them to distinguish between the standards of man and those of God.

Thus we aim to shepherd the heart of the child through rich multifaceted communication and discipline processes aimed at encouraging good habits to be formed in the student. We also aim to develop God-honouring relationships between students and teachers in the School that are consistent with a positive, caring and co-operative atmosphere.

According to God's Word, discipline should be an integral part of Christian family life. A disciplined approach to life and worship is essential for understanding our place before God. The School provides Christian education and training for children as a natural extension of the Christian home. All students are expected to conform with these expectations while at School. Discipline is the means whereby the child's life and growth are ordered and guided purposefully by parents and teachers.

c. *Scriptural Principles for Student Pastoral Management*

As a Christian school seeking to foster a close relationship with parents and the home, we must ensure that a high standard of personal discipline is practised in the School. Below are listed six Scriptural principles:

1. The creation is neither chaotic nor meaningless, since God has made it orderly and coherent in accordance with His laws and maintains it on the same basis. (Genesis 1:31)
2. God is the ultimate authority. All human authority is God-given. (Genesis 1:28–30)

3. Our responsibility before God therefore includes obedience to those placed in authority over us. (Romans 13:1; Titus 3:1; Ephesians 6:1–2)
4. True obedience can only result from conversion through the working of the Holy Spirit. (1 John 5:1–3).
5. The specific authority structure of the School arises out of the nature of the task: the teacher has the authority and responsibility to disciple, control, lead, direct and encourage while the student has the responsibility to be co-operative (with teachers and fellow students), obedient and diligent in learning. (Ephesians 6:1-9)
6. Because God loves His people, He disciplines them and, in turn, requires them to discipline their children and lead them to be responsible. (Proverbs 22:6)

4. Organisational Scope

This policy is School-wide, including the ELC.

5. Definitions

For purposes of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions shall apply:

Plagiarism	The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own.
Suspension	The temporary removal of a student's right to attend classes at the School.
Expel	The permanent removal of a student's right to attend classes at the School by removing them from the roll.
SMS	The School's Student Management System.
PD	Professional Development or professional learning/training

6. Policy Content and Guidelines

In the pursuit of helping students to grow in godly character, maturity and self-discipline, Covenant Christian School:

- b) Promotes a proactive and strategic stance on issues of student welfare and discipline, including exhausting reasonable alternatives to suspension or expulsion and applying natural justice and procedural fairness in the process.
- c) Maintains procedures of pastoral care, and behaviour modification, for students through teaching staff, Directors of Study, Principal, Chaplain and administrative staff.
- d) Maintains centralised record keeping (FACTS Management System) as an ongoing profile of a student's welfare, behaviour and any interventions exercised by the School.
- e) Regularly addresses the School's Student Pastoral Management (Discipline) Policy and associated procedures with staff to ensure comprehension and compliance.
- f) Expressly prohibits corporal punishment from the School's discipline procedures in accordance with Section 7(4) of the *ACT Education Act 2004*.
- g) Will implement the requirements of Chapter 2A of the *Education Act 2004* when considering suspending or expelling a student.

- h) Partners as required with parents, the School community and external specialists to support student development and address issues of concern.
- i) Will employ a Chaplain to provide pastoral care to members of the School community including the principal and staff, students, families and the wider community.
- j) Will inform prospective parents of the general expectations of the School's Student Pastoral Management (Discipline) Policy at the enrolment interview and gain parent's agreement to support this policy prior to offering enrolment.
- k) Will only suspend or expel a student whether the student's unsafe or non-compliant behaviour reduces the safety of other students or staff or the effectiveness of the learning environment of the School, and the School has involved the student and parents in the decision making process, and has investigated the behaviour in a manner that provides procedural fairness to the student.
- l) Promotes opportunities and learning experiences in School for students to develop self-awareness and to develop their skills and maturity.
- m) Makes use of appropriate ACT Police school liaison initiatives to encourage students to build a positive relationship with the Police.
- n) Actively discourages plagiarism in any form by students.

7. ELC Behaviour Management

ELC students are guided to listen to their educators and to develop behaviours which demonstrate good choices. Children are taught to be kind to each other and respectful of their educators.

8. Legislative Compliance

The School is required to manage its policy documentation within a legislative framework. The legislation directing this policy is the:

Education Act 2004 [Link](#)

Education Regulations 2005

9. References

Student Pastoral Management (Discipline) Procedures (link to be provided when updated)

Parent Handbook (revised annually)

Staff Handbook (revised annually)

10. Approval Agency

The Principal.

11. Policy Sponsor

The Principal

12. Contact Person

The following person may be approached on a routine basis in relation to this policy:

The Principal

02 6294 24