

DISCIPLINE - EDUCATION

Aspect is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students, where support strategies are individualised, planned, implemented and reviewed collaboratively.

Autism can significantly impact a student's understanding of rules, expectations, appropriate behaviour, impact and consequences. Aspect implements Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) to support students to understand school rules, values and engage appropriately with their learning, other members of the school community and activities. PBS supports pro-social behaviour and reduces risk to the health and safety of all students.

Schools are legislatively required, as part of their registration process, to develop and implement policies and procedures with regard to discipline including reference to suspension, expulsion and exclusion.

Aspect's discipline policy specifically precludes the use of corporal punishment and the basis of the policy is founded on the principles of procedural fairness, justice and compassion for all students.

The policy respects the rights of all members of the school community to be safe and supported whilst ensuring the dignity and responsibility of each person is upheld.

Aspect explicitly prohibits any form of corporal punishment.

Aspect does not sanction, in any way, the implementation of corporal punishment by non-school persons including parents and carers, to enforcement discipline at school.

Aspect provides social and emotional teaching and learning to all students to explicitly teach safe and supportive classroom environments.

At Aspect schools, behaviours of concern may be linked to a student's disability. Responses to student conduct concerns must consider the context of the setting and the social, emotional and cognitive capacity of the student(s) involved.

Aspect does not use disciplinary sanctions as a punitive measure. They are used as a last resort where the safety and wellbeing of members of the school or external community are at risk or where Aspect is no longer able to safely meet the needs of a student. In considering suspension or expulsion, the school must explicitly determine whether the behaviour of concern is a manifestation of the student's disability and whether further reasonable adjustments could enable continued safe participation. Any refusal of enrolment or discontinuation follows the Transition and Disenrolment procedures.

All disciplinary actions are implemented with procedural fairness.

External Framework

NESA registration requirements state that schools must have a discipline policy and procedures.

Sanctions include suspension, expulsion and exclusion.

Critical Definitions

Suspension is the temporary removal of a student from all school classes and activities for a period of time determined by the school. This time is used to review behaviour plans and implement strategies to support the student to return to school.

Expulsion is the permanent removal of a student from one particular school.

Exclusion is the act of preventing a student's enrolment at a number of schools.

Expulsion from one Aspect School does not necessarily preclude an application to attend another Aspect School. As part of every intake process, Aspect assesses whether it can safely meet the needs of all students.

