SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICY

Statement of Purpose

At Robertson Public School, all stakeholders (students, parents and staff) desire to create the best environment for student learning and to have a safe and happy school. Discipline at Robertson Public School enables the provision of a safe, caring and supportive environment which involves the whole school in maintaining a structure and atmosphere which promotes high self esteem and personal worth whilst developing interpersonal skills which will enable all children to reach their social and academic potential.

Principles

At Robertson Public School everyone has rights:

- We all have a right to be treated fairly and with respect and courtesy.
- Students have a right to achieve to the best of their ability and to work, play and learn in a friendly, safe and helpful school environment.
- Staff have a right to teach in a friendly, safe and co-operative environment which is supported by the whole school community.
- Parents have a right to feel welcome, to remain informed and to know that our children work, play and learn in a friendly, safe and helpful school.
- Visitors have a right to feel welcome in the school and be treated with good manners.

At Robertson Public School we believe:

- All students need to feel safe and happy at school.
- All students will show respect and courtesy towards others and property.
- Violence, discrimination, bullying, illegal or anti-social behaviour and inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
- All students are to follow the expected standards of behaviour in the classroom, playground and at all school activities.
- All students will wear full school uniform.
- Everyone makes choices and is responsible for their own behaviour.
- Student wellbeing is fundamental to learning success.

Aims

The Robertson Public School Discipline Policy will ensure that:

- The well-being, safety and health of all are a priority.
- Students are respected and supported in all aspects of their schooling.
- A provision of clear guidelines for behaviour is known by staff, students and parents.
- Students are provided with appropriate support programs where necessary.
- Students will develop the skills involved in positive relationships, social responsibility, decision making and conflict resolution.
- The school will be a disciplined and cohesive community reflecting the principles of equity and fairness and where individuals are responsible, courteous and cooperative.

THE CORE RULES

All students in NSW government schools are expected to:

- Attend school every day, unless they are legally excused, and be in class on time and prepared to learn.
- Maintain a neat appearance, including adhering to the requirements of the school’s uniform or dress code policy.
- Behave safely, considerately and responsibly, including when travelling to and from school.
- Show respect at all times for teachers, other school staff and helpers, including following class rules, speaking courteously and cooperating with instructions and learning activities.
- Treat one another with dignity and respect.
- Care for property belonging to themselves, the school and others.

Behaviour that infringes on the safety of others, such as harassment, bullying and illegal or anti-social behaviour of any kind, will not be tolerated.
These rules are based on the core values of integrity, excellence, respect, responsibility, cooperation, participation, care, fairness and democracy.

School Expectations

At Robertson Public School it is expected that in the classroom, in the playground, when travelling to and from school, and when on excursions and in attending sporting and other outside school activities, all students will:

• Comply with all school and classroom rules and the Discipline Policy to ensure the safety of themselves and others in all school situations.
• Show respect for and courtesy towards other students, staff, community members and property.
• Peacefully resolve conflict in a constructive manner without violence, discrimination, bullying or intimidation.
• Not be in possession of weapons (including cigarette lighters, penknives and sling shots), illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco or other school-banned substances (including eating or chewing of gum, aerosol cans, electronic devices, mobile phones and liquid paper).
• Follow the expected standards of behaviour in the classroom, playground and at all school activities.
• Display a sustained application to learning.
• Follow the school homework policy.
• Wear school uniform, including a hat.
• Travel directly, and safely, to and from school at the designated times and within the school guidelines, including waiting for pickup within the school grounds and crossing the road safely at the appropriate crossing point according to the traffic lights or with an adult.

Responsibilities

To help follow school rules, student responsibilities are:

• to respect each other
• to be helpful
• to not tease, bully, laugh at, or hurt the feelings of others
• to work out problems in a fair way
• to be polite and use good manners
• to ask for help
• to try our best
• to take pride in ourselves, our work and our school
• to be honest
• to attend school punctually and regularly
• to wear school uniform
• to cooperate
• to work and play safely
• to act sensibly and responsibly

Staff responsibilities are:

• to provide relevant and meaningful curriculum to meet students’ needs and to support students in achieving success
• to clearly state expectations of appropriate behaviour and emphasise the expected positive behaviours
• to be a role model of consistent, caring and controlled behaviour
• to encourage and model respect
• to use positive corrective practices wherever possible
• to allow students to take responsibility for their own behaviour

Parent/ Caregiver responsibilities are:

• to recognise their role as essential partners in supporting school rules and the successful education of their children
• to be a role model of consistent, caring and controlled behaviour
• to encourage and model respect
• to recognise the primary influence on each child’s character and behaviour
• to allow children to take responsibility for their own behaviour

The Discipline Code

Robertson Public School’s School Rules:
1. Be safe (by staying in bounds, playing by the rules, keeping your hands and feet to yourself)
2. Be a learner (by following instructions, staying on task, doing your best)
3. Be respectful (of the rights and property of others)

“I am a safe and respectful learner.”

**Strategies and Practices to Promote Positive Student Behaviour**
Promoting positive student behaviour is an essential part of Robertson’s Discipline Policy and promotes effective learning.

**At Robertson Public School positive discipline and effective learning is promoted by:**
- Providing appropriate curriculum to meet the individual needs of students.
- Supporting students in achieving success.
- Clearly stated teacher expectations of appropriate behaviour and emphasising the expected positive behaviours.
- Consistent implementation of school rules.
- Appropriate staff training and development.
- Staff and community providing role models of consistent, caring and controlled behaviour.
- Promoting an understanding and awareness of the role and responsibilities of parents and caregivers in the management of student behaviour.
- Encouraging, modelling and expecting respect for staff, community members and each other.
- Providing suitable support programs such as counselling and referral to Learning Support Team or Regional resources as required.
- Valuing and acknowledging differences.
- Actively promoting, teaching and supporting positive behaviour.

**Strategies and Practices to Recognise and Reinforce Student Achievement**

**At Robertson Public School the strategies and practices designed to recognise and reinforce student achievement are:**
- Explicit lessons/teaching of rules, values and skills at commencement of each school year specifically, and then throughout the year as necessary
- Peer support program annually in Term 2
- Positive verbal reinforcement
- Promoting student achievement in the school newsletter
- Inviting parents and caregivers to attend and participate in special events
- Ongoing and regular contact with parents regarding student achievements and behaviour in the form of formal and informal parent meetings
- Positive behaviour plans, where required, including the use of a communication book
- Tangible rewards such as stamps and stickers, teacher surprise box
- Recognition of student achievement at daily assemblies and Whole School Assemblies twice a term through:
  - Class merit awards, 2 per class per week, to be awarded at Friday assemblies
  - Principal merit awards, 4 per class per Whole School Assembly
  - Mathletics Awards at daily assemblies
  - Special event ribbons and/or certificates (e.g., sport, University tests, public speaking, music)
  - Bronze, Silver and Gold badges for classroom behaviour
- Cumulative Merit awards from Friday and Whole School assemblies:
  - 3 merit awards equal one Sapphire award
  - 3 Sapphire awards equal one Ruby award
  - 3 Ruby awards equal one Diamond Award
  - 3 Diamond awards equal one Robertson Medallion
- House points:
  - Participation at carnivals = 1 house point
  - Place-getting at carnivals = additional house points
- Library award each Whole School Assembly - one per school
- Music/Band award each Whole School Assembly - one per school

- Yearly Presentation Event:
  - Class Awards:
    - One Outstanding Academic Achievement award - book voucher of $20
    - 3 awards of class teacher’s choice, with students receiving a banner
  - Library awards:
• Library monitors’ certificate/banner
• book voucher or book prize K-2, for “reader of the year”
• book voucher or book prize 3-6, for “researcher of year”

- Sport awards –
  • Sportsperson of Year – usually Year 6 student
  • Age champions from carnivals

- School Awards – book voucher of $40 for:
  • Sports person of the year (as above)
  • Citizenship – Year 6
  • Dux Award – Year 6
  • Outstanding Individual Achievement - Year 6
  • CAPA award – Year 6
  • Quiet achiever award – Year 6

- Presentation of badges to next year’s School Captains and Prefects

**Strategies and Practices to Manage Inappropriate Student Behaviour**

At Robertson Public School we provide clear guidelines to ensure a consistent approach to the rules and responsibilities within our school.

At Robertson Public School the strategies designed to manage unacceptable behaviours include:

- debrief and rule reminder
- time out in class or playground, including loss of play or privileges
- removal and restitution - requiring students to attend a restitution session involving discussion, counselling and restoration (individual and incident-specific)
- parent notification through letter, telephone or interview
- documentation on yellow behaviour card/in detention book
- referral to Learning Support Team
- suspension or exclusion from school [for further information please refer to the Procedures for the Suspension and Expulsion of School Students Policy. A summary brochure is available from the school office]

Robertson Public School does not tolerate bullying or any other form of harassment, including racism or discrimination. Patterns of behaviour that are designed to hurt, injure, embarrass, upset or cause discomfort are not acceptable.

The role of Robertson Public School in the prevention of bullying, and other forms of harassment includes:

- clear communication to staff, students and parents/community members of acceptable, appropriate behaviours
- promoting and maintaining an environment where students care for, and are interested in, each other
- empowering and providing students with skills to solve problems and avoid conflict peacefully through regular personal development lessons