

## Discipline Policy

### Purpose and Biblical Basis

The process of discipline in a Christian context requires a caring and loving attitude, reflecting the discipline of God towards His people. It should always strive to direct the child towards repentance, reconciliation and forgiveness, not only from his teacher or peer but also from God.

The staff act in place of the parents, who themselves derive their authority from God. They should thus attempt to imitate God in dealings with children maintaining a balance between justice, love and mercy, and exemplifying by their attitudes and actions a role which would lead the children to become disciples of the Lord.

Discipline involves a genuine respect for authority as well as the qualities of commitment, reliability, trustworthiness, punctuality and care for others. Each student should be regarded as being responsible for his or her actions.

While punishment is often a necessary component of discipline, staff are encouraged to counsel students about their behaviour and to pray with and/or for students. It may be appropriate at times to refer students to other staff members.

### Procedure

1. The Principal is responsible for the oversight of disciplinary measures used within the school, though each teacher is regarded as having responsibility within his/her classroom. The responsibility of each teacher extends beyond his/her classroom, such that it is expected that all teachers will exercise disciplinary relationships over all students within the school.
2. A wide range of disciplinary measures will be used within the school as is most appropriate for the student concerned and the particular circumstances. These may include encouragement, counsel, correction, reprimand, deprivation, detention, isolation, family conference and suspension.

In accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Amendment (School Discipline) ACT 1995, corporal discipline is not permitted at Illawarra Christian Education.

Illawarra Christian Education does not explicitly or implicitly sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons including parents, to enforce discipline at the school.

3. A record of repeated and serious offences shall be kept by each teacher, detailing the date, nature of the offence and action taken by the teacher.
4. All serious matters will be reported to the Deputy Principal, then if necessary to the Principal who will consider any further steps necessary.
5. Any formal detention shall not be for more than half of the break and the teacher responsible will ensure that the student is supervised during that time. Shorter breaks shall not be a period of detention. After school detentions are only appropriate for serious or recurrent offences, in which case parents are notified of the intention to detain their child two or more days before the actual detention.
6. Formal parent – teacher interviews over continuing and serious disciplinary problems may be arranged from time to time. Such interviews will be arranged only after consultation with the Principal or their delegate.
7. If parents, following discussion with the teacher concerned, wish to take issue with a disciplinary action which has been taken, they must do so by following the steps outlined in the Resolution of Issues Policy.
8. Suspension will only be used for serious offences or when, in the opinion of the Principal, the student is refusing to comply with the accepted standards of school behaviour. The Board shall be notified of action taken as soon as possible.
9. Procedural fairness:-

In all areas of discipline students shall have appropriate access to those implementing the discipline procedure. To ensure that:

- a student's concerns are heard
- the student is aware of the process by which the matter will be considered, the student is aware of the process by which they may appeal. Students will be encouraged to speak with the class teacher, relevant coordinator, pastoral care coordinator/counsellor and/or, when appropriate, the Deputy Principal or Principal.

10. In cases involving serious breaches of Illawarra Christian Education policy, parents are informed immediately and a range of disciplinary measures may be used. These include, in school suspension, probation, partial enrolment, suspension, or in extreme cases, expulsion. While on probation a student's behaviour will be closely monitored over an appropriate period of time. Behavioural breaches during the period of probation will be treated as serious offences. The disciplinary measures employed for such breaches may include exclusion from a specific class, withdrawal of privileges, partial enrolment, suspension or exclusion.

Continued failure to comply with the behavioural expectations of the school community may lead to expulsion from the school. Students may also be expelled from the school as a consequence of a single serious behavioural incident. A decision to expel a student from the school will be made by the Executive of the Board in consultation with the Executive Principal of Illawarra Christian Education and the Principal of the respective school in which the student is enrolled. The decision will be ratified at the next Board meeting.

It is important that, wherever possible, the home and school work cooperatively in the discipline and training of the students. This is particularly true in the case of serious behavioural breaches where communication between home and school is extremely important in assisting the student to recognise and accept personal responsibility for his/her own behaviour.

## **Bus Behaviour**

Students are representing the school when travelling on public transport and should conduct themselves appropriately.

The following rules are set down by the N.S.W. Department of Transport. If they are broken, the student's bus pass may be taken away.

## **Code of Conduct**

To ensure your safety and the comfort of other passengers,

Students will:

- Behave safely at all times.
- Respect the needs and comfort of other passengers.
- Respect bus property by not marking or damaging it.
- Always follow instructions about safety on the bus.
- Show their bus pass or ticket to the driver on boarding and when requested.

Students will not:

- Distract the driver except in an emergency, smoke, eat or drink on the bus.
- Allow any part of their body to protrude from the bus, fight, spit, use offensive language or place their feet on the seats.
- Throw any article inside, or out of, the bus, alter, deface, misuse or fraudulently obtain a bus pass.

- Give, lend, or transfer their bus pass to another student.

A member of staff may refuse bus travel to a student if:

- they become aware of a breach of these rules
- behaviour occurs that would endanger the safety of students travelling on the bus.

### Policy History

Version	Revised By	Approved	Description	Next Review
1.0				
1.1	G. Batten & C. Muscat	22 October 2009	Minor changes to wording and removal of "Head of Campus" replaced by "Principal or Executive Principal"	2013
1.2	G Batten & C Muscat	3 June 2010	Additional paragraph included in Procedure point 2 - corporal punishment	2013
1.3	Exec Assistant to Exec Principal	Pre-approved October 2016	Change of operational name to ICE, Campus to school and reformatting	2017