

The Code of Behaviour

Better Behaviour Better Learning

Queensland state schools promote learning, creativity and innovation as the platform upon which to build prosperity and quality of life for all Queenslanders. State schools are strongly committed to providing a quality, futures-oriented education that enables all students to achieve their full potential. They prepare students for an active role in democratic life and society. High expectations, equity, inclusiveness and the building of social capital are key features of state schooling in Queensland.

Essential to effective learning is a safe, supportive and disciplined environment that respects the following **rights**.

- The rights of all students to learn
- The rights of teachers to teach
- The rights of all to be safe.

The *Code of School Behaviour* defines the **responsibilities** that all members of the school community are expected to uphold and recognises the significance of appropriate and meaningful **relationships**.

It outlines a consistent standard of behaviour for all state school communities in Queensland, inclusive of students, staff and parents. The *Code* has been developed to deliver the best possible outcomes for students, recognising the close relationship between learning, achievement and behaviour.

School communities will use the *Code* as a basis for providing:

- positive support to promote high standards of achievement and behaviour
- clearly articulated responses and consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

Each school will detail particular strategies to promote appropriate behaviour as well as consequences for unacceptable behaviour within its *Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students*.

Proposed legislation will provide for an “enrolment agreement” from 1 July 2006. On enrolment, all parties will be expected to sign this agreement, including students (where appropriate), parents/carers and principals. This agreement will require all parties to abide by the *Code of School Behaviour* and other endorsed conditions stipulated by the school.

State Schools Shaping the Smart State

School



values principles

The Code of School Behaviour is based on the following **values** and **principles**.

Values

The Department's Strategic Plan defines the following values.

- **Professionalism:** committing to the highest standards of accountability and performance
- **Respect:** treating all people with respect and dignity
- **Innovation and Creativity:** fostering safe environments that support innovative and creative practice
- **Diversity and Inclusiveness:** encouraging all Queenslanders to participate in education and cultural activities
- **Excellence:** supporting the pursuit of excellence.

Principles

The *Code* is underpinned by the following principles.

- State schools expect high standards of personal achievement and behaviour.
- The foundation of positive classroom behaviour is effective teaching, inclusive and engaging curriculum and respectful relationships between staff and students.
- Positive behaviour is enhanced through a whole school approach and effective school organisation and leadership.
- Partnerships with parents/carers, the wider school community and other support agencies contribute to positive behaviour in schools.
- Staff expertise is valued and developed.
- Standards of expected student behaviour are linked to transparent, accountable and fair processes, interventions and consequences.
- Responses to inappropriate student behaviour must consider both the individual circumstances and actions of the student and the needs and rights of school community members.

School

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State schools in Queensland are committed to providing quality learning opportunities that enable all students to achieve within safe, supportive and disciplined learning environments. Staff are to maintain high standards of ethical behaviour as established in the Department of Education's Code of Conduct. All members of school communities are to abide by the Code of School Behaviour in accordance with the following standards.

All members of school communities are expected to:

- conduct themselves in a lawful, ethical, safe and responsible manner that recognises and respects the rights of others.

Students are expected to:

- participate actively in the school's education program
- take responsibility for their own behaviour and learning
- demonstrate respect for themselves, other members of the school community and the school environment
- behave in a manner that respects the rights of others, including the right to learn
- co-operate with staff and others in authority.

Parents/carers are expected to:

- show an active interest in their child's schooling and progress
- cooperate with the school to achieve the best outcomes for their child
- support school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students
- initiate and maintain constructive communication and relationships with school staff regarding their child's learning, wellbeing and behaviour
- contribute positively to behaviour support plans that concern their child.



Consequences for Unacceptable Student Behaviour

Student behaviour that does not comply with the expected standards is not acceptable. The *Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students* will set out the range and level of responses and consequences for student behaviour that is not consistent with these standards.

Consequences are to be applied to:

- provide the opportunity for all students to learn
- ensure the safety of staff and students
- assist students who exhibit challenging behaviours to accept responsibility for themselves and their actions.

In applying consequences for unacceptable student behaviour, the individual circumstances and actions of the student and the needs and rights of school community members will be considered at all times.

Schools use a range of consequences that are authorised by Education Queensland which include:

- suspensions
- exclusions
- cancellations of enrolment.

These consequences are to be used after consideration has been given to all other responses. Access to alternative programs and input from other agencies may be necessary for students who repeatedly do not comply with expected standards of behaviour.

Regional Executive Directors or Executive Directors (Schools) are expected to:

- endorse the school's *Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students* that aligns with the *Code* and complies with legislation
- ensure that school plans are implemented consistently, fairly and reasonably
- exercise leadership in support of school principals' responsibilities under the *Code* and promote improvement of the professional skills of principals accordingly.

The Senior Management Team of Education Queensland is expected to:

- determine policy directions and monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of resource allocations and services to support responsible behaviour throughout Queensland schools.

Principals are expected to:

- play a strong leadership role in implementing and communicating the *Code* in the school community
- ensure consistency and fairness in implementing the school's *Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students*
- communicate high expectations for individual achievement and behaviour
- review and monitor the effectiveness of school practices and their impact on student learning
- support staff in ensuring compliance with the *Code* and facilitate professional development to improve the skills of staff to promote responsible behaviour.

Schools are expected to:

- provide safe and supportive learning environments
- provide inclusive and engaging curriculum and teaching
- initiate and maintain constructive communication and relationships with students and parents/carers
- promote the skills of responsible self-management.

standards