St Brigid’s Primary School
Student Behaviour Support Policy

Rationale:

St Brigid’s Student Behaviour Support Policy aims to promote personal and school community safety and the development of positive behaviours. It recognises students’ rights to an education, respect, dignity and a corresponding responsibility not to deny these rights to others, as well as the obligations of being part of a school community. St Brigid’s aims to work from a positive frame of reference, where students are acknowledged and/or rewarded for positive conduct. We further recognise that in contemporary society children need to be given the opportunity to learn and practise expected behaviours, and learn that there are consequences for not displaying expected behaviours.

St Brigid’s is aware that learning and growth is a journey and acknowledges that a safe, harmonious environment, based on Christian living, is needed so that students can learn how to manage their own behaviour. St Brigid’s Student Behaviour Support Policy aims to develop the whole person, with dignity, in a community where students can learn to build, maintain and restore relationships in a climate of safety, acceptance and reconciliation. It recognises that in order to develop self discipline and character, students may need help to modify their own behaviour from time to time through the use of open, honest and respectful communication.

Christian Values:

Our behaviour support philosophy is enlightened by Gospel values, guided by our school motto ‘Making Christ Present’, and recognises the uniqueness of each individual.

In Catholic Schools, it is acknowledged that a diverse range of personal, social, cultural, family and religious influences can impact on the relational and behavioural responses of students at any given point in time. In light of these influences, Catholic schools seek to develop throughout the school community right behaviours and respectful relationships that are infused with gospel values.1

As such, we will base our behaviour support procedures on Christian values and will encourage positive choices in order to build peaceful relationships, modify behaviour, promote reconciliation and justice.

... A just school is marked by compassion, a fullness of love, reconciliation, inclusion and peace. An authentic culture of peace grows in a catholic School community that strives to create a climate permeated with harmony and respect for justice.2

Policy Statement:

All members of the St Brigid’s community have rights, which need to be respected, and responsibilities which need to be met. St Brigid’s community believes that all students have the ability to demonstrate expected behaviours and to be accountable for their own behaviour. Every member of the St Brigid’s community will show genuine tolerance, acceptance and understanding while working at resolving conflicts peacefully. It is the responsibility of every member within the community to engage in appropriate behaviour.

St Brigid’s School will adopt a School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program (SWPBS) to assist students to learn and practise expected behaviours and be rewarded for demonstrating expected behaviours.

SWPBS is not a specific model but a compilation of effective practices, interventions and systems change strategies that have a long history of empirical support and development and individually have been demonstrated to be empirically effective and efficient. 3

The following school programs and tools which promote rights and responsibilities, expectations and consequences, are examples which can be used to underpin a school-wide approach to support behaviour at St Brigid’s: Classroom Rules, Playground Rules, Step Program, Peace Wheel, You Can Do It program, counselling.
There are also many opportunities for students to receive affirmations for demonstrating expected behaviours. At St Brigid’s, the SWPBS approach will establish a full continuum of behaviour supports. This continuum will be characterised by:

a. An emphasis on prevention,
b. An increasing intensity of intervention for increasing intensities of problem behaviour, and
c. A provision for basic proactive teaching (primary prevention) for all students by all staff in all settings.

**Principles:**

St Brigid’s Student Behaviour Support Policy aims to –

- Heal destructive behaviours;
- Maximise each child’s success in learning;
- Work from a Restorative Justice model; 4
- Reduce violence and promote mediation, conflict resolution, school safety, and restorative practices;
- Foster responsibility;
- Enable spiritual, personal, intellectual, emotional and physical growth and well being;
- Promote the common good through the development of a Catholic social conscience;
- Encourage respect for self and others, learning and property.

2. Justice Education Policy, Catholic Education Council, July 2012
4. Restorative Justice (RJ) is an alternative approach to behaviour and relationship management in schools. Through the principles of Restorative Justice people take responsibility for the impact of their behaviour on other people, by a process of structured questions about the incident and the impact caused leading to an opportunity for choices to be made to repair the harm and allow closure, providing resolution to conflict. Restorative Justice has been used in schools to reduce offending, victimisation, bullying and truancy from school. For more information: www.transformingconflict.org; www.realjustice.org