

Behaviour and Discipline Policy

Wilderness Arts College

At Wilderness Arts College, we are committed to creating a respectful, safe, and inclusive environment where all students can thrive. Our Behaviour and Discipline Policy outlines the expectations for student conduct and the processes we use to support positive behaviour, manage challenges, and guide students in taking responsibility for their actions.

1. Guiding Principles

Our approach to behaviour and discipline is based on the following core values:

- Respect – for self, others, learning, and the environment
 - Responsibility – taking ownership of actions and choices
 - Relationships – building trust and resolving conflict through open communication
 - Restoration – repairing harm and restoring community where possible
 - Growth – supporting students to learn from mistakes and make positive changes
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2. Behaviour Expectations

Students at Wilderness Arts College are expected to:

- Treat others with kindness, respect, and empathy
- Follow teacher directions and participate in learning
- Resolve conflicts in peaceful and respectful ways
- Care for school property and the natural environment

- Use technology safely, responsibly, and only when permitted
 - Contribute to a calm, focused and supportive classroom atmosphere
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3. Responding to Behaviour Issues

We use a restorative and educational approach to discipline that encourages reflection, accountability, and relationship repair. Our responses to challenging behaviour will be proportionate, consistent, and tailored to the individual context.

Minor behaviours (e.g. off-task behaviour, low-level disruption):

- Verbal reminder
- Redirection or a quiet conversation
- Time-out or reflection break
- Restorative chat with staff or peers

More serious or repeated behaviours (e.g. defiance, unsafe behaviour, ongoing disruption):

- Parent/carer contact
- Behaviour support plan or agreement
- Restorative meeting
- Temporary removal from the group or activity

Major behaviours (e.g. physical violence, bullying, harassment, property damage, serious defiance):

- Immediate removal from the learning environment
- Formal restorative conference

- Suspension or exclusion (in line with school and Department of Education policy)
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4. Suspension and Exclusion

Suspension or expulsion is only used when necessary to maintain the safety and wellbeing of the student and others, and after other strategies have been attempted where appropriate. Decisions will be made in line with the Department of Education's Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidance.

5. Student Support

We understand that behaviour is often a form of communication. Students experiencing challenges will be supported with:

- Behaviour support plans
 - Check-ins with staff or wellbeing support
 - Access to counselling or external services (where appropriate)
 - Opportunities to reflect and repair through restorative processes
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6. Parent and Carer Involvement

We value collaboration with families. Parents and carers will be kept informed and involved in responding to behaviour concerns and in supporting their child's learning and development.

7. Policy Access and Review

This policy is reviewed annually or after any significant incident or policy change. Printed and translated versions are available upon request.

For questions or concerns about student behaviour or disciplinary processes, please contact:

Christopher James – Principal

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