

STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

IN TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
learners first



Did you know?

Schools create and maintain a safe, positive and inclusive learning environment so all learners have the best opportunity to strive for excellence and reach their potential.

Respectful behaviour in Tasmanian Government schools is critical to creating an environment that supports learning, wellbeing and educational attainment.

Schools work in a shared partnership with you and the school community to model and promote supportive, positive behaviour and establish clear behavioural expectations.

The teaching of personal and social capabilities, and ethical behaviour is part of the school curriculum. Schools provide opportunities for students to learn how to self-regulate, demonstrate safe and responsible behaviours, and treat others and themselves with respect.

What is unacceptable behaviour?

- The *Education Act 2016* outlines types of unacceptable behaviour at school and school activities, and processes for responding to unacceptable student behaviour to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff.

- Each school has a Policy that outlines their approaches for supporting positive student behaviour, and the processes for responding to unacceptable behaviour. This includes using practices to help build and repair relationships that have been affected by unacceptable student behaviour.

How do schools respond to unacceptable student behaviour?

- In responding to unacceptable behaviour, schools use practices to help build, maintain and restore relationships to support students to learn and teachers to teach.
- Your child's school will have a range of responses and strategies in place to:
 - » develop an understanding of why a student has behaved unacceptably
 - » work to resolve or address underlying issues, including providing additional support to students where appropriate
 - » consider the impact on student learning of any response to the unacceptable behaviour
 - » respond to the unacceptable behaviour of students as required to ensure the school environment is safe and supports learning and attainment.
- Ensure your child's school is made aware of unacceptable behaviour between their students (at school, a school activity, or outside of school) that is having a negative impact on learning or wellbeing at school. The school will work to develop an understanding of why the behaviour occurred and take steps to prevent such behaviour



from occurring in future, including working to build and repair relationships.

- In serious cases of unacceptable behaviour, schools may refer the matter to a relevant authority (such as the police) for investigation.
- Under the Act, schools are not able to apply detention, suspension, exclusion, expulsion or prohibition when unacceptable behaviour occurs outside of school or school activities.

What happens if your child behaves unacceptably?

- Schools have a range of strategies and approaches for responding to unacceptable student behaviour with escalating responses that reflect the severity of the behaviour.
- Schools use a range of approaches including providing support to students and only apply behavioural responses that result in time away from school (e.g. suspension) as a last resort or when necessary to ensure the safety of students and staff at the school.



- If a student is suspended or excluded from attending school, the principal is to ensure that the student is provided with appropriate educational instruction to be completed by the time they return to school.
- If your child is suspended or excluded from attending school, it is your responsibility to look after them at home until they are permitted to return.
- Schools will arrange a re-entry process for transition back to school, including a re-entry conference between you, your child and staff to develop an agreed plan and support strategies for their return to school.

Where can I get more information?

- Talk to your child's school early if you have concerns about your child's behaviour or the behaviour of other students at the school so staff can work with you to help prevent the situation from escalating.
- You can discuss any behavioural responses applied with your child's teacher or principal if you think they have been made unfairly.
- There is a Respectful Schools Support Team in each region, contact your nearest Learning Service about receiving specialist support for your child.

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