

STAND-DOWNS, SUSPENSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS OF STUDENTS POLICY

RATIONALE:

We recognise the importance of acknowledging both legal guidelines and the principles of natural justice in determining actions when there is a need to stand down, suspend or exclude a student.

DEFINITIONS:

Stand-down means the formal removal of a student from school for a specified period. Stand-downs of a particular student can total no more than 5 school days in a term or ten school days in a year.

Suspension means the formal removal of a student from school until the board of trustees decides an outcome at a suspension meeting.

The principal of the school (or a person with the delegated authority of the board of trustees to act as principal) is the only person who can make the decision to stand-down or suspend a student from the school. [section 14 (1)] - Education Act 1989.

Following a suspension, the board may decide to:

- lift the suspension without conditions
- lift the suspension with reasonable conditions
- extend the suspension with reasonable conditions for a reasonable period
- exclude or expel the student.

Exclusion means the formal removal of a student aged under 16 from the school. If the decision is made to exclude a student, the school must try to arrange for the excluded student to be enrolled at another convenient school.

The Ministry of Education can, if necessary, direct the board of any other state school to enrol the student. A board must comply with a direction to enrol a student from the Ministry of Education. A direction overrides the provisions of any enrolment scheme the school may have in place.

PURPOSE:

Section 13 of the Education Act 1989 sets out the three-fold purpose of the provisions for stand-down, suspension, exclusion and expulsion:

The purpose of the provisions of this Act concerning the stand-down, suspension, exclusion, or expulsion of a student from a state school is to:

- provide a range of responses for cases of varying degrees of seriousness; and
- minimise the disruption to a student's attendance at school and facilitate the return of the student to school when that is appropriate; and
- ensure that individual cases are dealt with in accordance with the principles of natural justice.

GUIDELINES:

see "Guidance for Principals and Boards of Trustees on Stand-downs, Suspensions, Exclusions and Expulsions" from the Ministry of Education.

Signed:



Robyn Garrett - BOT Chairperson



Craig Price - Principal

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