

Nyngan Public School



Student Engagement Policy

Reviewed April 2015

Nyngan Public School Student Engagement Policy

Rationale

The NSW public education system seeks to provide quality education for all students, taking into account their age, background, ability and interests.

At Nyngan Public School we aim to help students become self-directed learners who can create a positive future for themselves and the wider community.

Our school is focussed on the values of SAFETY, RESPECT AND COOPERATION

Code of Conduct

Rights and responsibilities for students and teachers include:

- Expected standards of behaviour in the classroom, playground and whilst travelling to and from school.
- Safety in and around the school and at all school activities.
- Acceptable standards of behaviour while on excursions and participating in or attending sporting or other activities.
- Obedience to requests from staff.
- Adherence to the school's homework policy.
- Adherence to the standards of dress determined by the school community.
- Prohibition of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco and weapons.
- Positive and respectful relationships between all members of the school community

Core Rules for Government Schools

All students in NSW schools are expected to:

1. Learn all they can

- Attend school every day, unless legally excused
- Be in class on time
- Be prepared to learn by paying attention in class
- Try to improve their learning with the help of school staff
- Follow instructions for learning activities

2. Right place, Right time

- Stay in sight of the teachers on duty
- Stay in bounds
- Walk in the walkways
- Be punctual to lines

3. Keep hands and feet to themselves

- Behave considerately and responsibly

4. Use friendly talk and carry out friendly actions

- Show respect for school staff, students and visitors
- Treat each other with dignity and respect
- Follow class rules
- Cooperate with instructions
- Care for property belonging to them, the school and others

5. Maintain a neat appearance, including adherence to the requirements of the school uniform and dress code.

Expectations of Parents, Teachers and Students

The precise character of the partnership between parents, teachers and students will be unique to each student. There are, however, certain **expectations** in common to all such partnerships.

Parents:

- Are responsible for ensuring their children attend school, with all the requirements to enable full participation in school activities;
- Share in the responsibility of shaping their children's understandings and attitudes about acceptable behaviour;
- Assume responsibility for their children's behaviour as they travel to and from school;
- Support the school curriculum through homework, reading and communication;
- Are responsible for their children adhering to the school uniform policy.
- Responsible for setting the best possible examples of positive behaviour for their children. Regularly reinforcing respect for others at home, school and within the wider community.

Teachers:

- Are responsible for the education and care of the students when at school;
- Have the task of providing the best possible program to meet the needs, capabilities and aspirations of each individual student;
- Are responsible for supporting student to make positive choices both in the classroom and on the playground.

The classroom teacher is usually the first point of reference on matters related to the welfare and discipline of the students in their care.

Students:

As children grow, they become more active participants in the partnership between home and school.

When the partnership is based on mutual respect, each partner will support the decisions and responsibilities exercised by the other.

- Adopt the school motto, In Search of Knowledge, into daily school life;
- Know their rights and responsibilities and endeavour to achieve them at all times;

- Manage their own behaviour by following school and class rules and accepting consequences in a socially acceptable manner.

Nyngan Public School Values and Rules

1. Safety

- Be in the right place at the right time
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself

2. Respect

- Play fair
- Speak politely to staff, parents, students and visitors

3. Cooperation

- Do as you are asked.
- Be where you are meant to be
- Play fair

Positive Consequences

Classroom

1. Teachers distribute tallies tokens to students displaying appropriate learning behaviours within the classroom on a regular basis. Acceptable behaviours include but are not limited to:
 - Remain in their seats
 - Remain on task
 - Keep their hands and feet to themselves
 - Listen and follow instructions
 - Speak respectfully to teachers and peers
 - Respect their property and the property of others
2. 15 tallies results in students progressing to the next level (Opal to Emerald to Sapphire to Ruby to Diamond). Parents are notified via written communication and the student is awarded their certificate at the next assembly.

The system is designed to reward students who consistently display good citizenship and follow school rules.

Playground

1. Children displaying Safety, Respect and/ or Cooperation are awarded a Bango Buck by the teacher on duty. The teacher shares with the student the value and rule(s) they were adhering to thus reinforcing positive behaviours. The students place their Bango Buck in the class container. Each Friday at lunch time lines there is a draw for each class for a \$2 voucher at the canteen.

Negative Consequences

Behaviour that infringes on the safety of others, such as harassment, bullying and illegal or anti-social behaviour of any kind, will not be tolerated.

Classroom

1. Class rules are negotiated at the start of each year and revisited at the start of each term. The class rules support the school rules. Playground rules are revisited daily.
2. When a student displays inappropriate behaviour and **is not** responding to **classroom or playground interventions**, the following system is applied;
 - a) A verbal / visual warning is given to the child and they are reminded of the expected behaviour – **1st warning**
 - b) If the behaviour continues the child will be given another verbal / visual warning – **2nd warning**. At this point the student is removed to a time out area with in the classroom or the Red Spot table in the playground.
 - c) If the unacceptable behaviour continues when the student returns to the main classroom area or playground they will be withdrawn. Withdrawal from class results in the student completing their work in a buddy class, withdrawal from the playground results in supervised timeout in another area of the school.
 - d) Students requiring option c will have such communicated to their parents via a phone call from the teacher witnessing the inappropriate behaviours.

Physical and or verbal violence within the classroom or playground will result in immediate withdrawal and parental communication.

Behaviours which are unacceptable include, but are not limited to:

Playground; rough play, bad sportsmanship, harassment, bullying, dangerous play, refusal to follow a reasonable request from a member of staff, vandalism, graffiti and being out of bounds.

Classroom; refusal to follow a reasonable request, swearing, disturbing the learning of others, harassment, bullying, refusal to complete class activity, disrespect for the safety of others, disrespect for the property of the school, self or peers.

Not to Tour

Using an electronic tracking system (Millenium), behaviours of students enrolled at Nyngan Public School are monitored regularly. Students displaying at risk behaviours or low level disruptive behaviours on a regular basis may be referred to the Principal for placement on the Not to Tour List. Parents / carers will be notified of the Principal's decision. Children on the Not to Tour list will not be able to participate in extra curricula activities until improvement in their behaviour is noted to be occurring on a regular basis.

Suspension

Suspension from school is a very serious matter. Only a small number of students will ever be suspended or expelled from school.

Suspension results in the student not being allowed to attend school for a period of time. The purpose of the suspension is to allow students time to think about and accept responsibility for their behaviour. It also allows the school time to make a plan to assist the student to improve their behaviour. This is more effective when the parents/ carers work with the school to help resolve the problem.

SHORT SUSPENSION (between 1 and 4 school days)

Principal may impose a short suspension of up to and including 4 school days, or in more serious cases a long suspension of up to and including 20 days.

- **Persistent disobedience** – This includes, but is not limited to, breaches of the school discipline code such as; refusal to obey staff instruction; defiance; disrupting other students on a regular basis.
- **Aggressive behaviour** – This includes, but is not limited to: hostile behaviour directed towards students, members of staff or other persons, including verbal abuse and abuse transmitted electronically.

LONG SUSPENSIONS (between 2 and 20 school days)

Principal must suspend immediately and consistently any student who:

- **Is physically violent:** Any student who is physically violent, resulting in serious pain or serious injury, or who seriously interferes with the safety and well-being of other students, staff or persons is to be suspended immediately. The matter may need to be reported to the NSW Police Force
- **Is in possession of a firearm, prohibited weapon, (as defined by Schedule One of the Weapons Prohibition Act), or knife (without reasonable cause):** Any student in possession of a prohibited weapon, firearm or a knife (without reasonable cause), is to be suspended immediately. The matter must be reported to the NSW Police Force immediately.
- **Uses, or is in possession of, a suspected illegal substance (not including alcohol or tobacco) or supplies a restricted substance.**

With the exception of the DET mandatory Long Suspension requirements, the Principal has the final decision on whether a short or long suspension, class or playground withdrawal, Not to Tour or other consequence will be imposed. Parents / carers will be an integral part of the resolution of any of these.

Return from Suspension

Parents are invited to a return from suspension meeting. The student is reminded of the school values and rules. The student is given a 5 day monitoring card. This card must be completed in the school environment that resulted in the suspension (playground / classroom). Failure to complete the 5 days of monitoring successfully may result in an extension of the monitoring

card, withdrawal from the school environment causing concern or an additional period of suspension.

Students returning from physical violence are monitored on the playground for a period of 2 weeks or until positive behaviours are displayed on a regular basis.

The Nyngan Public School community working together to share expectation and example with today's students will assist in preparing for tomorrow and beyond.

