



# SUSPENSION, EXCLUSION AND EXPULSION POLICY

## DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

Policy Number	06/02
Policy Name	Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion Policy
Applicability	All schools, boarding facilities, staff, parents, students
Contact Person	Director of Schools
Policy Status	Endorsed Policy
Date of Approval	30 May 2007 - DCSC
Date Last Amended	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2007
Related Policies/Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suspension, Exclusion &amp; Expulsion Procedures</li><li>• Pastoral Care Policy</li><li>• Safe Schools Policy</li><li>• Discipline Policy &amp; Procedures</li></ul>
Review Period	2018

## SUSPENSION, EXCLUSION AND EXPULSION POLICY

### Rationale

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga are committed to *'providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment conducive to learning.'*<sup>1</sup> This is characterised by fairness, mutual trust, respect and reconciliation.

A safe and supportive environment is developed when all members of the school community promote open communication, tolerance and positive relationships and embrace responsive, just and transparent processes. This is in line with the CSO Vision and Mission statement of *'ensuring fairness and justice within appropriate discipline structures'*<sup>2</sup>.

### Policy Statement

Principals have the authority to suspend students. Principals have the authority to recommend to the Director of Schools the exclusion or expulsion of a student. Suspensions, when utilized, are notified to the appropriate CSO personnel. Decisions regarding suspension, exclusion and expulsion are upheld if the CSO procedures are followed. Appeal procedures for families are based on CSO procedural fairness.

### Supporting Statements

Suspension is a strategy within a school's Student Welfare and Pastoral Responsibilities policies. Suspension is most effective when parent(s) or carer(s) accept and act upon their responsibility to take an active role, in partnership with the school, to modify the inappropriate behaviour of a student. Professional staff of the school and the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) will work with parent(s) or carer(s) with the aim of assisting a suspended student to rejoin the appropriate learning program as quickly as possible.

Suspension allows a student time to reflect on his/her behaviour, to acknowledge and accept responsibility for the behaviours which led to the suspension, and to accept responsibility for changing their behaviour to meet the school's expectations in the future. It also allows time for school personnel to plan appropriate structured support for the student to assist with successful re-entry. Commitments are made by both parties for re-entry.

Suspension for students with disabilities is to be cautioned and other strategies are to be explored where appropriate. Principals have authority, consistent with the provisions of the CSO procedures to suspend, exclude or expel a student from a particular school.

<sup>1</sup> Vision and Mission Statement, Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Wagga Wagga

- 2 -

Principals also have the authority to recommend to the Director of Schools the exclusion or expulsion of a student.

*'Expulsion is the permanent removal of a student from one particular school.'* Board of Studies Manual 5.7.1.

*'Exclusion is the act of preventing a student's admission to a number of schools. In extreme circumstances, the principal of a school/college may make a submission to an appropriate authority or to other schools, recommending the permanent exclusion of a student from the registration system that the school is a member of ....'* Board of Studies Manual 5.7.1.

Principals exercise this authority having regard to their responsibilities to the whole school community and to the principles of procedural fairness. See Appendix A CSO Suspension, Expulsion and Exclusion Procedures.

This policy applies to the behaviour of students at school, on the way to and from school and while away from the school/college site on school-endorsed activities.

Principals acting in accordance with this policy, following due process in a procedurally fair way, can expect to have their decision to suspend, exclude or expel a student upheld if the decision is appealed. A decision subject to appeal may be reversed or amended if these conditions are found to be partially or totally absent.

Endorsed at DCSC Meeting on 30 May 2007.