



# Petersham Public School

## Student Welfare Policy

Petersham Public School aims to provide a happy, safe and caring environment where children have the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability and become responsible and independent learners through quality programs.

### Strategies

- Provision of effective and engaging classroom learning programs
- Provision of programs to cater to individual needs
- Effective communication of expectations, procedures and guidelines
- Building of caring and respectful relationships
- Embedding of values in all school procedures, programs and policies
- Provision of a safe and caring learning environment
- Provision of a variety of learning opportunities and experiences
- Provision of regular feedback about progress
- Positive recognition and award system

#### Values

Honesty  
Fairness  
Responsibility  
Kindness  
Cooperation  
Tolerance  
Care  
Respect  
Participation  
Excellence

### School Rules

The rules are to help everyone be safe, learn well and care for others and for the school itself. There are four basic rules:

1. **Be Safe** - stay in supervised areas, take part in acceptable games and activities
2. **Show Respect** - to self, others and property
3. **Cooperate** - with teachers and staff by responding appropriately to directions
4. **Do your Best** - try hard, do the best you can, apply yourself

The school takes a positive approach, using acknowledgement and commendation to encourage children who support the school and their peers by abiding by these rules.

### Positive Approach

The school takes a positive approach, using acknowledgement and commendation to encourage students who work to achieve their best, to become responsible learners and to create a happy safe and caring learning environment:

- verbal acknowledgement for effort, achievement and safe and respectful behaviours
- class and school special awards
- the presentation of awards at assembly to acknowledge social and academic achievements
- public acknowledgement of school and individual achievement through newsletter
- work displays in the hall, foyer and classrooms
- Restorative Practice Questions used to discuss and manage conflict situations and behaviour incidents.
- implementation of social skills programs (Bounce Back)

#### Restorative Practice Questions

*For when things go wrong or someone is hurt*

- What happened?
- What were you thinking at the time?
- What have you thought about since?
- Who has been affected by this incident?
- What can you do to make things right?

#### Class Recognition

- descriptive feedback
- specific praise
- stickers
- stamps
- charts
- Special Award certificates

#### Certificate of Excellence

awarded for 10 Special Award certificates at the weekly assembly

#### Weekly Merit Awards

Awarded to two students from each class at the weekly assembly

#### Principal Visit and Award

for special effort, achievement or positive and caring behaviour

## Strategies to Manage Unacceptable Behaviour

Where behaviour is shown to be unacceptable or dangerous then strategies may include:

- Verbal reminders of expected behaviours and the school rules
- Teaching positive behaviours through social skills programs eg Bounce Back/Values ed, PD lessons
- Consistent warnings for non-compliant behaviour
- Redirection strategies to divert students into positive actions
- Behaviour modification programs eg behaviour contract, playground behaviour card, visual reward charts
- Loss of privileges (time out in class or playground or withdrawal from school activities, excursions or representative activities)
- Timely contact and consultation with parents, to inform about incidents and ensure consistent management of behaviour
- School Counsellor and Learning & Support Team referral and support
- In school withdrawal (alternative placement during class and break time for an agreed period, eg in office instead of classroom and/or playground)
- Suspension and or expulsion in accordance with Departmental guidelines
- In the case of significant ongoing behaviour issues which have major impacts on student welfare and learning, application for placement at a specialist setting may be recommended

### Classroom

Each class teacher negotiates the class rules with the class at the beginning of the year. These rules are to ensure the safety of the children and to promote a co-operative classroom environment. Teachers will use a 3 warning system to manage students who make choices not to comply with class rules.

**1st Warning** Verbal warning

**2nd Warning** Time out in the classroom

**3rd Warning** Time out in another class with executive staff member or class next door

Ongoing or significant classroom behaviour incidents will be entered into the online Behaviour Register and communicated to executive team. Parents will be notified and agreed consequences and strategies to manage behaviour implemented.

### Playground

Minor incidents are dealt with by the duty teacher through Restorative Practice discussions and immediate consequences (eg time out with duty teacher or collect papers), and noted in the Playground Behaviour Blue Folder.

If there is reoccurring patterns of non-compliant behaviour will be entered in the online Behaviour Register and communicated to staff and parents as appropriate.

Major incidents are dealt with by the duty teacher with support from executive staff. Students involved will be removed from the playground to the office or AP's classroom. Staff will lead Restorative Practice conversations, and determine appropriate consequences. Staff will enter details of the incident in the online Behaviour Register and communicate incident details and agreed consequences with staff and parents as appropriate.

Examples of major incidents include: hurting others, unsafe behaviour, swearing, bullying, and disrespect for teachers and students.

### Ongoing non-compliant or dangerous behaviour

Following repeated entries in the online Behaviour Register, parents will be invited to meet with AP/Principal and class teacher to discuss incidents and future management strategies, eg Behaviour Management Plan, rewards, consequences.

A formal written caution, detailing significant and/or frequent behaviour incidents will be sent to parents if unacceptable behaviour continues.

Significant and/or frequent behaviour incidents leading up to an excursion or school representation may lead to withdrawal from excursion or school representation.

Suspension from school may be necessary in the event of ongoing major breaches of the school rules or aggressive behaviour. Suspension is mandatory in the event of high level physical violence, possession of a weapon or possession of an illegal substance.