

Otahuhu College Behaviour and Discipline Policy

Purpose

To foster a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment where all members of the school community are treated with respect and dignity. This policy establishes clear expectations for student behaviour, provides access to support services, and outlines the consequences for breaches of these expectations.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, and visitors within the Otahuhu College community. It governs behaviour on school premises, during school-related activities, and any off-site conduct that impacts the school environment or the reputation of the college.

Policy Principles

1. **Safe Environment:** Ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of the college community is paramount.
 2. **High Standards:** Students are held to high behavioural and academic standards, fostering respect, responsibility, and pride in the college.
 3. **Equity and Inclusion:** Consequences for breaches of this policy are applied consistently, fairly, and with cultural sensitivity.
 4. **Restorative Practices:** Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions, repair harm, and engage positively with the school community.
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Behaviour Expectations

Students are expected to:

1. **Respect:** Demonstrate respect for themselves, others, and school property through words, actions, and attitudes.
2. **Engagement:** Actively participate in their learning and all school activities.
3. **Punctuality:** Be on time to school and classes, prepared to learn.
4. **Uniform:** Wear the correct school uniform neatly and with pride, adhering to college guidelines at all times.

Failure to meet these expectations may result in disciplinary consequences proportionate to the nature and severity of the breach.

Unacceptable Behaviours

Unacceptable behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- Disruptive behaviour in class or school activities.
 - Non-compliance with uniform standards.
 - Use of offensive or disrespectful language.
 - Bullying, harassment, or intimidation.
 - Physical violence or fighting.
 - Association with individuals involved in physical violence or fighting.
 - Possession, use, or distribution of drugs, alcohol, or vaping devices.
 - Association with individuals or environments involved in drug use or illegal activities.
 - Vandalism or theft of school or personal property.
 - Misuse of digital devices or online platforms to harm others.
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Support for Students

Otahuhu College is committed to supporting students in meeting behaviour expectations through:

1. Health and Wellbeing Centre: Providing confidential counselling and mental health support to address emotional, social, and behavioural challenges.
 2. Internal Programmes:
 - Anger management sessions to help students develop self-regulation and conflict resolution skills.
 - Drug and alcohol education and intervention programmes for students involved in substance-related incidents.
 3. Restorative Practices: Opportunities for students to repair harm caused and rebuild relationships within the school community.
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Consequences for Unacceptable Behaviours

Consequences will be proportionate to the behaviour and may include the following:

1. Minor Breaches:

- Verbal warnings and reminders of expectations.
- Lunchtime or after-school detentions.
- Communication with parents/caregivers.

2. Moderate Breaches:

- Stand-down or suspension for repeated or significant breaches such as non-compliance with uniform policy, disruptive behaviour, or verbal abuse.
- Restorative meetings to address harm caused and rebuild relationships.

3. Serious Breaches:

- Fighting: Stand-down or suspension. A second offence will likely result in suspension or referral to the Board of Trustees.
- Drug and Substance Use:
 - Confiscation of prohibited substances and immediate parental notification.
 - Stand-down or suspension for possession, use, or association with drug-related activities.
 - A second offence will likely result in suspension or referral to the Board of Trustees.
- Police Involvement: The school management may report serious breaches, including drug offences, theft, or acts of violence, to the police.
- Victim Support: Victims of criminal acts, including violence or theft, are encouraged to report the matter to the police, with support from the school as needed.

Process for Addressing Breaches

1. Incident Response:

- Immediate action to ensure safety and manage the situation.
- Notification of parents/caregivers as soon as practicable.

2. Investigation:

- Comprehensive investigation by senior leadership to gather all relevant information.
- Students involved are given an opportunity to present their perspective.

3. Decision and Consequences:

- Consequences determined based on the behaviour's severity, the student's history, and mitigating factors.
 - Implementation of restorative practices wherever appropriate.
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Prevention and Support

- Education: Programmes on respectful relationships, conflict resolution, and the dangers of drug use.
 - Support Systems: Access to counsellors, deans, and external support agencies.
 - Positive Reinforcement: Celebrating and rewarding students who consistently demonstrate exemplary behaviour.
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Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, or as required, to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Feedback from students, staff, and parents/caregivers will inform any necessary updates.
