

Catholic Schools Office

Diocese of Wagga Wagga

SUSPENSION, EXPULSION AND EXCLUSION PROCEDURES

1. Preamble

In accepting the enrolment of a student, the staff of a Catholic school take on the responsibility for the care and guidance of that student.

This care and guidance is carried on in a school climate characterised by Gospel values. Such values emphasise the development of self-discipline based on justice, self-esteem and reconciliation. The dignity of the individual in a school remains of the utmost importance *'respecting the dignity and uniqueness of each student.'* 1.

Given such an environment, the action of excluding or expelling a student occurs only on very rare occasions and only after considerable assistance has been provided to the student and the family in an effort to overcome difficulties which surround that student.

2. General Principles

2.1 Schools make every effort to ensure that education is a rewarding and relevant experience for all students; *'providing a comprehensive curriculum of quality and challenge for all'* and *'valuing effort, achievement and excellence in learning.'* 2.

2.2 It is the responsibility of the principal to ensure that students, parents and staff are fully aware of the school's/college's pastoral care policy and discipline code.

2.3 The principal seeks early and positive support from parents or caregivers in resolving discipline and behaviour problems. Suspension provides a period where all parties can seek a positive resolution to the issue.

2.4 It is essential that suspension is seen as a strategy within the pastoral care policy and discipline code of the school. These suspension strategies are to be used only in serious cases of misbehaviour or non-compliance and in accordance with these guidelines. The strategies must be

well advertised to students and parents. Principals should use their available authority immediately if they believe that the safety of staff or students is at risk.

2.5 When considering these strategies the principal ensures that no student is discriminated against in terms of gender, race, religious or cultural background, socio-economic status, physical or intellectual disability (*see Point 3*) 1. CSO Vision and Mission. 1999