



Fact sheet

Student Code of Conduct

What is the Student Code of Conduct?

Every Queensland state school is required to have a *Student Code of Conduct*. This is the school's behaviour policy, with information about school rules, consequences and processes for addressing bullying and the use of technology. From 2020, the *Student Code of Conduct* replaces the *Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students*, *Code of Behaviour* and *Statement of Expectations*.

The *Student Code of Conduct* is developed in consultation with each local school community, is published on the school website and provided to every student and family upon enrolment.

Content of *Student Code of Conduct*

Every state school has their own *Student Code of Conduct* developed to meet local needs, however the following sections are mandated for inclusion:

- Purpose
- Contact information
- Endorsement
- Contents
- Whole school approach to discipline (including differentiation of discipline)
- Disciplinary consequences
- School policies (Temporary removal of student property, Use of mobile phones and other devices by students, Preventing and responding to bullying and Appropriate use of social media)
- Restrictive practices
- Critical incidents.

Key information

- Principals are accountable for the development and publication of their school's *Student Code of Conduct*.
- Template and exemplar for developing a *Student Code of Conduct* are online www.behaviour.education.qld.gov.au
- The *Student Code of Conduct* must detail the behaviour of students that is expected and the types of disciplinary consequences that may be used to respond when behaviour does not meet expectations.
- There can be no mandatory consequences for student misbehaviour, the *Student Code of Conduct* should detail what the range of consequences are only (this is a principle of natural justice to ensure that every situation is considered on its unique circumstances prior to any disciplinary decision being made).
- The *Student Code of Conduct* must be revisited annually to ensure currency (e.g. staff changes) and a full review is expected every four years in line with the school review process.
- Consultation with students, staff and families must form part of the development and feedback process for the *Student Code of Conduct*.
- A current, signed and dated copy of the *Student Code of Conduct* must be available on the *Quick Links* section of the school website home page or footer.
- Support must be provided by the school to translate the *Student Code of Conduct* into accessible language formats to meet the diverse language needs of the local community (e.g. plain language, English as an Additional Language or Dialect).
- A copy of the *Student Code of Conduct* must be provided with every school enrolment application.
- Induction programs for all new staff and volunteers must incorporate a review of the *Student Code of Conduct*.





Responsibilities

Principals

- The principal of a state school must control and regulate student discipline in the school.
- Consult the school community (for example, P&C) to develop a *Student Code of Conduct*.
- Ensure the *Student Code of Conduct* details how school staff will:
 - explicitly teach expected behaviours and provide opportunities for students to practise
 - differentiate teaching to respond to the learning needs of all students
 - take into account a student’s individual circumstances, such as behaviour history, disability, mental health and wellbeing, religious and cultural considerations, home environment and care arrangements when responding to inappropriate behaviour
 - adhere to confidentiality obligations limiting discussion or sharing information about individual circumstances of students, including applied disciplinary consequences, with persons other than the student’s parent/s.
- Implement a communication plan to ensure all staff, students and the wider school community are aware of the content and familiar with how to access the *Student Code of Conduct*.
- Ensure a signed copy of the *Student Code of Conduct* is publicly available on the school website and is reviewed annually to maintain currency, with a comprehensive review every four years in line with cycles of the *School Planning, Reviewing and Reporting Framework*.

State school staff (including principals)

- Ensure familiarity with the school’s *Student Code of Conduct*.
- Follow appropriate processes outlined in the *Student Code of Conduct*.

Students and parents

- Ensure familiarity with the school’s *Student Code of Conduct*.
- Adhere to school’s standards outlined in the *Student Code of Conduct*.

Resources

- [Student discipline procedure](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct Prompt](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct Full Exemplar](#)
- [Principal guidelines – student discipline](#)

