



The Code of
**School
Behaviour**
Better Behaviour
Better Learning



Mount Gravatt State High School

Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students based on *The Code of School Behaviour*

1. Purpose

Mount Gravatt State High School is committed to providing a safe, respectful and disciplined learning environment for students and staff, where students have opportunities to engage in quality learning experiences and acquire values supportive of their lifelong wellbeing.

This Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students is designed to facilitate high standards of behaviour so that the learning and teaching in our school can be effective and students can participate positively within our school community.

2. Consultation and data review

Mount Gravatt State High School developed this plan in collaboration with our school community. School communication forums including School Advisory Council, School Community Forum, Resource Management Forum and Curriculum Forum are used to engage all members of the school community in discussing vital elements of the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students.

The following important data sets for this school relating to attendance, unexplained absences, suspensions, cancellations of enrolment and exclusions, behaviour incidents including bullying and cyberbullying have been reviewed to inform the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students. Other inappropriate online behaviour including inappropriate use of mobile phones or other electronic devices also informed the development process.

The Plan was endorsed by the Principal and the Parents and Citizens Association President and will be reviewed in 2019 as required in legislation.

3. Learning and behaviour statement

All areas of Mount Gravatt State High School are positive and supportive learning and teaching environments. We consider the Responsible Behaviour Plan to be an opportunity for valuable social learning as well as a means of maximising the success of student learning programs.

Our Responsible Behaviour Plan outlines our system for facilitating positive behaviours and responding to inappropriate and unacceptable behaviours. Through our school plan, shared expectations for student behaviour are clearly articulated, assisting Mount Gravatt State High School to create and maintain a positive and productive learning and teaching environment, where ALL school community members have clear and consistent expectations and understandings of their role in the educational process.

Our school community has identified the following school rules to teach and promote our high standards of responsible behaviour:

- **Respect for yourself**
- **Respect for other people**
- **Respect for the school**

Our school rules have been agreed upon and endorsed by all staff and our school P&C. They are aligned with the values, principles and expected standards outlined in Education Queensland's *Code of School Behaviour*.

4. Processes for facilitating standards of positive behaviour and responding to unacceptable behaviour

Student well being

Learning and wellbeing are inextricably linked – students learn best when their wellbeing is optimised, and they develop a strong sense of wellbeing when they experience success in learning. Students themselves identify schooling as a key influence on their wellbeing. Whether it is the positive impact of a great teacher, an inspirational and engaging classroom lesson or that bit of extra support provided at just the right time – there is no doubt that a student’s experience at school has a significant impact on their wellbeing.

In turn, schools are only too aware that students with high levels of wellbeing make better learners – they demonstrate more effective academic, personal and social functioning and generally engage in more appropriate behaviour at school.

Parents and carers have the most significant impact on their child’s wellbeing, and their partnership and active participation in school activities are welcomed and encouraged.

Mount Gravatt State High School supports wellbeing by building a positive learning culture – providing challenging, interactive and engaging learning experiences and by nurturing relationships with families and the wider community. Students are encouraged to support their own wellbeing by being actively involved in their school and community – and research on resilience shows a sense of belonging is critical for young people.

At Mount Gravatt State High the *Learning and Wellbeing Plan* is based on the rich school culture and positive ethos that is part of the school’s DNA. It addresses wellbeing by capturing practices in the four domains:

1. learning environment
2. curriculum and pedagogy
3. policies and procedures
4. partnerships.

Positive student behaviour

The first step in facilitating standards of positive behaviour is communicating those standards to **all** students. At Mount Gravatt State High School we emphasise the importance of directly teaching students the behaviours we want them to demonstrate at school.

Mt Gravatt High School is guided by our Code of Conduct which was formulated by students as a part of the School Community Forum and School Advisory Council in 2002. This code of conduct is reviewed by the school community each year, and is given to all students at the start of each school year.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All members of the school community should behave in ways which enhance the good name of the school.

WHAT WE VALUE AT OUR SCHOOL	WHAT THAT MEANS IN TERMS OF YOUR BEHAVIOUR
1. In class, on task, on time	This is your top priority when you come to school each day.
2. Be prepared	There are lots of different things you need to remember at High School. Use your e-diary to help you get organised.
3. Respect others	Be sure that your actions don't take your teacher's time away from their top priority which is helping <u>everyone</u> in the class to learn.
4. Think before you speak	Ask yourself..... <i>Is it true?</i> <i>Is it kind?</i> <i>Is it necessary?</i>
5. Hands off	This refers to other people and their property.
6. I'm different, you're different, we are all valued the same.	Students here bring with them a range of backgrounds, religions and ability levels. We are proud of our Social Justice policies.
7. Be your own person	It isn't always easy to say NO to your friends. Try to show the courage to do what you know is right.
8. Be a good sport	Play by the rules in all areas of life.
9. Be proud of your school	Take care of the school environment. Be aware that, while you're in our uniform, your actions reflect on everyone.
10. Be proud of yourself	Remember, everyone is good at something. No-one is good at everything. <u>You</u> can make a difference.

These expectations are communicated to students via a number of strategies, including:

- Behaviour lessons conducted by classroom teachers;
- Reinforcement of learning from behaviour lessons on School Assemblies and during active supervision by staff during classroom and non-classroom activities.

Mount Gravatt State High School implements the following proactive and preventative processes and strategies to support student behaviour:

- Use of the school newsletter, enabling parents to be actively and positively involved in school behaviour expectations
- Administration Team members' regular provision of information to staff and parents, and support to others in sharing successful practices
- Comprehensive induction programs in the Mount Gravatt State High School Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students delivered to new students as well as new and relief staff
- Individual learning plan developed with students, parents and relevant specialists (where appropriate) for specific students to provide a personal framework of positive behaviour expectations and actions. This process enables staff to provide consistent strategies or adjustments across all learning environments.
- Implementation of specific policies to address:
 - the use of personal property technology devices at school (Appendix 1) *Appropriate Use of Mobile Telephones and other Electronic Equipment by Students*
 - procedures for preventing and responding to incidents of bullying (including cyberbullying and recording incidents for data collection) (Appendix 2)
 - procedures regarding the use or possession of weapons including knives and any other items that could be considered a weapon in school (Appendix 3).

Reinforcing expected school behaviour

At Mount Gravatt State High School communication of our key messages about behaviour is backed up through reinforcement, which provides students with feedback for engaging in expected school behaviour. **The Code of Conduct is provided in enrolment packs and student e-diaries.**

The staff will make a united effort to inculcate desirable attitudes and codes of conduct in students.

- Discipline should be thought of in terms of assisting appropriate choices.
- The sum total of teachers' persuasion, guidance, direction and example is most effective.
- A spirit of cooperation makes for harmonious staff-student relationships.
- Form meetings provide an excellent opportunity for teachers to encourage students towards appropriate attitudes and conduct.
- School Assemblies are identified as opportunities to highlight activities that are examples of successful staff-student co-operation.

Other Examples

- Encouragement - praise
- Incentives - rewards
- Interesting extension work
- Responsibility - e.g. "real life" tasks
- Recognition of good behaviour - by teacher, admin, peers
- Positive reporting – phone calls, letters to parents
- Show interest in students' outside activities, family, culture
- Take time out to listen
- Be approachable
- Effective Teaching and Learning Principles
- Pastoral Care
- Motivation
- Playground interaction encouraged

Responding to unacceptable behaviour

Students come to school to learn. Behaviour support represents an important opportunity for learning how to get along with others.

Re-directing low-level and infrequent problem behaviour

When a student exhibits low-level and infrequent problem behaviour, the first response of school staff members is to remind the student of expected school behaviour, then ask them to change their behaviour so that it aligns with our school's expectations.

Our preferred way of re-directing low-level problem behaviour is to ask them how they might be able to act more safely, more respectfully or more responsibly. This encourages students to reflect on their own behaviour, evaluate it against expected school behaviour, and plan how their behaviour could be modified so as to align with the expectations of our school community.

Targeted behaviour support:

Each year a small number students at Mount Gravatt State High School are identified through our data as needing a little bit extra in the way of targeted behavioural support. In most cases the inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour may not be immediately regarded as severe, but the frequency of their behaviours may put these students' learning and social success at risk if not addressed in a timely manner.

Students identified as requiring targeted behaviour support attend their normal scheduled classes and activities with appropriate adjustments if required. However they have increased daily opportunities to receive positive behaviour skills and support through increased contact with adults, additional support from Deputy Principals, Year Level Co-coordinator, Guidance Officer and Form teachers. Where required, adjustments are made to the Program through academic support, adult mentoring or intensive social skills training.

Students whose behaviour does not improve after targeted support, or whose behaviour indicates a need for specialised intervention, are provided with intensive behaviour support.

Intensive behaviour support

Mount Gravatt State High School is committed to educating all students, including those with the highest behavioural support needs. We recognise that students with highly complex and challenging behaviours may need comprehensive systems of support that require regular reviews in consultation with parents/ caregivers and other relevant specialist staff.

The Principal will appoint an appropriate Case Manager who:

- works with other staff members to develop appropriate behaviour expectations and strategies to develop an Individual Learning Plan
- monitors the impact of support for individual students through continuous data collection
- provides consistent strategies and adjustments outlined within the Individual Learning Plan, and
- works with the School Administration to achieve continuity and consistency.

The Case Manager is responsible for ongoing communication with the student, staff, school administration and parents. A team of professionals will be formed as appropriate to monitor and support the student. This may include individuals from other agencies already working with the student and their family, a representative from the school's administration and specialist behaviour services staff.

5. Consequences for inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour

Mount Gravatt State High School makes systematic efforts to prevent inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour by teaching and reinforcing expected behaviours on an ongoing basis. Our school seeks to ensure that responses to inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour are consistent and proportionate to the nature of the behaviour.

Minor and major behaviours

When responding to behaviour incidents, the staff member determines if the problem behaviour is minor or major, with the following agreed understanding:

- **Minor** behaviour incidents are handled by staff members at the time it happens
- **Major** behaviour incidents are referred directly to the school Administration team

Minor problem behaviours are those that:

- are minor breaches of the school rules
- do not seriously harm others or cause you to suspect that the student may be harmed
- do not violate the rights of others in any other serious way
- are not part of a pattern of inappropriate behaviours
- do not require involvement of specialist support staff or Administration.

Minor problem behaviours may result in the following consequences:

- a minor consequence logically connected to the inappropriate behaviour, such as complete removal from an activity or event for a specified period of time, partial removal (time away), individual meeting with the student, apology, restitution or detention for work completion.
- a re-direction process where a staff member takes the student aside and:
 1. names the behaviour that student is displaying
 2. asks student to name expected school behaviour
 3. states and explains expected school behaviour if necessary
 4. gives positive verbal acknowledgement for expected school behaviour.

Major behaviours are those that:

- significantly violate the rights of others
- put others / self at risk of harm
- require the involvement of school Administration.

Major behaviours result in an immediate referral to school Administration because of their seriousness. When major unacceptable behaviour occurs, staff members calmly state the behaviour and remind the student of expected school behaviour. The staff member then escorts the student to Administration. A report of the student’s behaviour is recorded on OneSchool.

Mount Gravatt State High School values positive Student Achievement strategies.

Where expectations are not met, possible strategies include:

- Detention during breaks and after school where personal support is offered.
- Communication with parents including telephone calls, letters and interviews to widen the support.
- In the event that the matter is not able to be dealt with at the classroom level, it may be referred to the Year Level Coordinators, Heads of Departments or the Administration.
- If support measures fail, suspension (1 to 20 days) or exclusion from the school may result.

Safety is of paramount importance and students are expected to observe State and Federal laws as well as Education Queensland and school policies and regulations. Breaches of these may result in suspension or suspension with exclusion, especially where dangerous objects and/or illegal substances are involved.

Definition of consequences*

Time out	Principal, Deputy Principal or school staff may use time out as a strategy for students to manage their own behaviour and to assist the student to calm down. During time out, student is to be supervised and given an opportunity to rejoin class in intervals of no more than 10 minutes.
Detention	Principal, Deputy Principal or teacher may use detention as a consequence for disobedience, misconduct, or other breaches of school expectations. A detention is no more than 20 minutes during school lunch or 30 minutes after school (parent will be contacted before after school detention is imposed).
Temporary Removal of Property	Principal, Deputy Principal or staff member of MGSHS has the power to temporarily remove property from a student, as per the procedure <i>Temporary Removal of Student Property by School Staff.</i>

School Disciplinary Absences (SDA)	
Suspension	<p>The Principal may suspend a student from school under the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ disobedience by the student ▪ misconduct by the student ▪ other conduct that is prejudicial to the good order and management of the school.
Behaviour Improvement Condition	<p>The Principal may impose a behaviour improvement condition if the Principal is reasonably satisfied that the student has engaged in behaviour that warrants the grounds for exclusion or other conduct that is so serious that suspension of the student from school is inadequate to deal with the behaviour.</p> <p><i>A Behaviour Improvement Condition</i> requires the student to undertake a behaviour management program arranged by the school's Principal. The program must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reasonably appropriate to the challenging behaviour ▪ conducted by an appropriately qualified person ▪ designed to help the student not to re-engage in the challenging behaviour ▪ no longer than three months.
Proposed exclusion or recommended exclusion	<p>A student may be suspended pending a decision to exclude when the student's behaviour is so serious that suspension of the student from the school would be inadequate to deal with the behaviour. A student may be suspended or excluded for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ disobedience ▪ misconduct ▪ other conduct that is prejudicial to the good order and management of the school, or ▪ breach of Behaviour Improvement Conditions.
Cancellation of enrolment	<p>The enrolment of a post compulsory school age student may be cancelled if the student's behaviour amounts to a refusal to participate in the educational program provided at the school.</p>

*Refer to departmental procedure [Safe, Supportive and Disciplined School Environment](#) for further details.

Relate inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour to expected school behaviours

When responding to inappropriate or unacceptable behaviours, staff members ensure that students understand the relationship of the behaviour to expected school behaviour. One method that staff members might use to achieve this is to have students:

- articulate the relevant expected school behaviour
- explain how their behaviour differs from expected school behaviour,
- describe the likely consequences if the problem behaviour continues; and
- identify what they will do to change their behaviour in line with expected school behaviour.

Should an inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour be repeated, the staff member may not repeat the discussion/explanation process but simply remind the student of the consequences of their problem behaviour.

Ensuring consistent responses to inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour

At Mount Gravatt State High School, staff members authorised to issue consequences for behaviour incidents are provided with appropriate professional development and/or training.

Through training activities, we work to ensure consistent responses to behaviour incidents across the school.

Students also receive training about how to respond when other students display inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour. The courteous way to respond when a staff member redirects a student's behaviour is taught and rehearsed to reduce the impact of peer engagement in the behaviour incident.

Student disciplinary absences (suspension and exclusion) may be considered in the event of a serious, one-off behaviour incident including:

The following table outlines examples of minor and major behaviour incidents*

	Area	Minor	Major
Being Safe	Movement around school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Running on concrete or around buildings ▪ Running in stairwells ▪ Not walking bike in school grounds 	
	Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incorrect use of equipment ▪ Not playing school approved games ▪ Playing in toilets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Throwing objects ▪ Possession of weapons
	Physical contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minor physical contact (eg: pushing and shoving) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serious physical aggression ▪ Fighting
	Correct Attire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not wearing a hat in playground ▪ Not wearing shoes outside 	
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possession, consumption or selling of cigarettes or e-cigarettes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possession, consumption or selling of drugs or alcohol ▪ Weapons including knives and any other items which could be considered a weapon being taken to school ▪ Inappropriate use of personal technology devices or social networking sites, which impacts on the good order and management of the school
Being Responsible	Class tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not completing set tasks that are at an appropriate level ▪ Refusing to work 	
	Being in the right place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not being punctual (eg: lateness after breaks) ▪ Not in the right place at the right time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leaving class without permission (out of sight) ▪ Leaving school without permission
	Follow instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low intensity failure to respond to adult request ▪ Non compliance ▪ Unco-operative behaviour 	
	Accept outcomes for behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minor dishonesty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major dishonesty that impacts on others
	Rubbish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Littering 	
	Mobile Phone or personal technology devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobile phone switched on in any part of the school during school hours, unless directed by an authorised staff member for an educational purpose). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use of a mobile phone in any part of the school for voicemail, email, text messaging or filming purposes without authorisation during school hours. ▪ Inappropriate use of personal technology devices or social networking sites, which impacts on the good order and management of the school
Being Respectful	Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inappropriate language (written/verbal) ▪ Calling out ▪ Poor attitude ▪ Disrespectful tone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offensive language ▪ Aggressive language ▪ Verbal abuse / directed profanity
	Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Petty theft ▪ Lack of care for the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stealing / major theft ▪ Wilful property damage ▪ Vandalism
	Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not playing fairly ▪ Minor disruption to class ▪ Minor defiance ▪ Minor bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major bullying ▪ Major disruption to class ▪ Blatant disrespect ▪ Major defiance ▪ Inappropriate use of personal technology devices or social networking sites, which impacts on the good order and management of the school

*Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. Other behaviours will be dealt with as appropriate.

or

- In the event of persistent inappropriate behaviour after consideration has been given to all other responses.

6. Emergency situation or critical incident responses

It is important that all staff have a consistent understanding of how to respond to emergency situations or critical incidents involving severe unacceptable behaviour. This consistency ensures that actions taken are responsive to the safety and well-being of students and staff.

An **emergency situation or critical incident** is defined as an occurrence that is sudden, urgent, and usually unexpected, or an occasion requiring immediate action.

Severe unacceptable behaviour is defined as behaviour of such intensity, frequency, or duration that the physical safety and well-being of the student or others is likely to be placed at serious risk.

Immediate Strategies

- **Avoid escalating the unacceptable behaviour**
Avoid shouting, cornering the student, moving into the student's space, touching or grabbing the student, blocking the student's exit, sudden responses, sarcasm, becoming defensive, communicating anger and frustration through body language.
- **Maintain calmness, respect and detachment**
Model the behaviour you want students to adopt, stay calm and controlled, use a serious measured tone, choose your language carefully, avoid humiliating the student, be matter of fact and avoid responding emotionally.
- **Approach the student in a non-threatening manner**
Move slowly and deliberately toward the situation or incident, speak privately to the student/s where possible, speak calmly and respectfully, minimise body language, keep a reasonable distance, establish eye level position, be brief, stay with the agenda, acknowledge cooperation, withdraw if the situation escalates.

Reinforcement and Correction Strategies

- If the student starts displaying the appropriate behaviour briefly acknowledge their choice and re-direct other students' attention towards their usual work/activity.
- If the student continues with the unacceptable behaviour then remind them of the expected school behaviour and identify consequences of continued unacceptable behaviour.

Follow Up Strategies

- Restore normal school operations as soon as possible.
- Provide post incident opportunities that include:
 - Assisting any distressed student/s to access appropriate support, e.g. Guidance Officer.
 - Assisting the individual student to identify the sequence of events that led to the unacceptable behaviour, pinpoint decision moments during the sequence of events, evaluate decisions made, and identify acceptable decision options for future situations.
 - Recording a reflection or individual learning plan to assist the student to develop a personal framework of expectations and appropriate actions.

Physical Intervention

Staff may make legitimate the use of physical intervention if all non-physical interventions have been exhausted and a student is:

- physically assaulting another student or staff member
- posing an immediate danger to him/herself or to others.

Appropriate physical intervention may be used to ensure that Mount Gravatt State High School staff demonstrate a duty of care to protect students and staff from foreseeable risks of injury. The use of physical intervention is only considered appropriate where the immediate safety of others is threatened and the strategy is used to prevent injury.

Physical intervention can involve coming between students, blocking a student's path, leading a student by the hand/arm, shepherding a student by placing a hand in the centre of the upper back, removing potentially dangerous objects and, in extreme situations, using more forceful restraint.

Record keeping

Each instance involving the use of physical intervention must be formally documented. The following records must be maintained:

- School Incident Report (Appendix 4)
- Student Record of Incident (as per process for Natural Justice).

7. Network of student support

Students at Mount Gravatt State High School are supported through positive reinforcement and a system of universal, targeted, and intensive behaviour support by

- Parents/Guardians
- Teachers
- Support Staff
- School Based Youth Health Nurse
- Head of Department
- Administration Staff
- Guidance Officer
- Senior Guidance Officer
- Year Level Deans

Support is also available through the following government and community agencies:

- Disability Services Queensland
- Child and Youth Mental Health
- Queensland Health
- Department of Communities (Child Safety Services)
- Police
- Local Council
- Neighbourhood Centre.

8. Consideration of individual circumstances

To ensure alignment with the *Code of School Behaviour* when applying consequences, the individual circumstances and actions of the student and the needs and rights of school community members are considered at all times.

Mount Gravatt State High School considers the individual circumstances of students when applying support and consequences by:

- promoting an environment which is responsive to the diverse needs of its students
- establishing procedures for applying fair, equitable and non-violent consequences for infringement of the code ranging from the least intrusive sanctions to the most stringent

- recognising and taking into account information relevant to the students' age, gender, disability, cultural background, socioeconomic situation, mental health and wellbeing, emotional state (such as individualised learning plan or individual education plan), and recognising the rights of all students to:
 - express opinions in an appropriate manner and at the appropriate time
 - work and learn in a safe environment regardless of their age, gender, disability, cultural background or socio-economic situation
 - receive adjustments appropriate to their learning and/or impairment needs
 - provide written or verbal statements that will be taken into consideration in the decision making processes
 - ensure that processes maintain the dignity, respect, privacy and confidentiality of the student, consistent with the rights of the rest of the community.

9. Related legislation

- [Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#)
- [Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Act 2006](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Regulation 2006](#)
- [Criminal Code Act 1899](#)
- [Anti-Discrimination Act 1991](#)
- [Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000](#)
- [Judicial Review Act 1991](#)
- [Weapons Act 1990](#)
- [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#)
- [Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011](#)
- [Right to Information Act 2009](#)
- [Information Privacy \(IP\) Act 2009](#)

10. Related procedures

- [Safe, Supportive and Disciplined School Environment](#)
- [Inclusive Education](#)
- [Enrolment in State Primary, Secondary and Special Schools](#)
- [Student Dress Code](#)
- [Student Protection](#)
- [Hostile People on School Premises, Wilful Disturbance and Trespass](#)
- [Police and Child Safety Officer Interviews with Students, and Police Searches at State Educational Institutions](#)
- [Acceptable Use of the Department's Information, Communication and Technology \(ICT\) Network and Systems](#)
- [Managing Electronic Identities and Identity Management](#)
- [Appropriate Use of Mobile Telephones and other Electronic Equipment by Students](#)
- [Temporary Removal of Student Property by School Staff](#)

11. Some related resources

- [Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support](#)
- [Code of Conduct for School Students Travelling on Buses](#)
- [National Safe Schools Framework](#)
- [National Safe Schools Framework Resource Manual](#)
- [Working Together resources for schools](#)
- [Cybersafety and schools resources](#)
- [Bullying. No way!](#)
- [Take a Stand Together](#)

12. Endorsement

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Principal

P&C President

Effective Date: **/2018** **to** **/2020**



The Use of Personal Technology Devices* at School

Certain Personal Technology Devices Banned From School

Students must not bring valuable personal technology devices like mobile phones, cameras, digital video cameras or MP3 players to school as there is a risk of damage or theft. If devices are required by a student for after-hours use, it is to be handed in to the office before school and collected at the end of the day. If students keep their devices on them they should not be visible to staff. Any devices used in contravention of this policy will be confiscated by school staff and may be collected at the end of the day from the school office.

Repeated breaches of this rule may result in disciplinary consequences.

Confiscation

Permitted personal technology devices used contrary to this policy on school premises will be confiscated by school staff. They will be made available for collection from the school office at the end of the school day unless required to be kept for purposes of disciplinary investigation, when it will only be returned in the presence of a parent.

Devices potentially containing evidence of criminal offences may be reported to the police. In such cases police may take possession of such devices for investigation purposes and students and parents will be advised to contact Queensland Police Service (QPS) directly.

Recording voice and Images

Every member of the school community should feel confident about participating fully and frankly in all aspects of school life without concern that their personal privacy is being invaded by them being recorded without their knowledge or consent.

We uphold the value of trust and the right to privacy at Mount Gravatt State High School. Students using personal technology devices to record inappropriate behaviours or incidents (such as vandalism, fighting, bullying, staged fighting or pranks etc) to disseminate to others (including distribution by phone or internet posting) build a culture of distrust and disharmony.

Students must not record images anywhere that recording would not reasonably be considered appropriate (e.g. in change rooms, toilets or any other place where a reasonable person would expect to be afforded privacy).

Recording of events in class is not permitted unless express consent is provided by the class teacher.

A school student who uses a personal technology device to record private conversations, ordinary school activities or violent, illegal or embarrassing matter capable of bringing the school into public disrepute is considered to be in breach of this policy.

Even where consent is obtained for such recording, the school will not tolerate images or sound captured by personal technology devices on the school premises or elsewhere being disseminated to others, if it is done for the purpose of causing embarrassment to individuals or the school, for the

purpose of bullying¹, including racial and sexual harassment, or where without such intent a reasonable person would conclude that such outcomes may have or will occur.

Students involved in:

- recording; and/or
- disseminating material (through text messaging, display, internet uploading etc); and/or,
- knowingly being a subject of a recording

Breach of this policy may be subject to discipline (including suspension and proposal/recommendation for exclusion).

Students should note that the recording or dissemination of images that are considered indecent (such as nudity or sexual acts involving children), is against the law and if detected by the school will result in a referral to the Queensland Police Service.

Text communication

The sending of text messages that contain obscene language and/or threats of violence may amount to bullying and/or harassment or even stalking, and will subject the sender to discipline and possible referral to QPS. Students receiving such text messages at school, should ensure they keep the message as evidence and bring the matter to the attention of the school office.

Assumption of cheating

Personal technology devices may not be taken into or used by students at exams or during class assessment unless expressly permitted by staff. Staff will assume students in possession of such devices during exams or assessments are cheating. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who is caught using a personal technology device to cheat during exams or assessments.

Recording Private Conversations and the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971*

It is important that all members of the school community understand that under the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971*, 'a person is guilty of an offence against this Act if the person uses a listening device to overhear, record, monitor or listen to a private conversation'. It is also an offence under the Act for a person who has overheard, recorded, monitored or listened to a conversation to which s/he is not a party to publish or communicate the substance or meaning of the conversation to others.

Students need to understand that some conversations are private and therefore to overhear, record, monitor or listen to such private conversations may be in breach of this Act, unless consent to the recording is appropriately obtained.

Special Circumstances Arrangement

Students who require the use of a personal assistive technology device in circumstances that would contravene this policy (for example to assist with a medical condition or other disability or for a special project) should negotiate a special circumstances arrangement with the Deputy Principal or Principal.

Inappropriate behaviour outside of school hours

Students may receive disciplinary consequences for bullying or cyberbullying or other inappropriate online behaviour that occurs out of school hours, and affects the good order and management of the school.

¹ Education Queensland does not tolerate bullying behaviour at schools. This includes bullying conducted by electronic means.

Appendix 2

Procedures for Preventing and Responding to Incidents of Bullying

Purpose

1. Mount Gravatt State High School strives to create positive, predictable environments for all students at all times of the day. This is essential to:
 - achieving overall school improvement, including the effectiveness and efficiency of our student support procedures
 - raising achievement and attendance
 - promoting equality and diversity and
 - ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of the school community.
2. There is no place for bullying at Mount Gravatt High. Bullying behaviours include name-calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments, kicking, hitting, pushing, taking belongings, inappropriate text messaging, sending offensive or degrading images by phone or internet, producing offensive graffiti, gossiping, excluding people from groups, and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours. Bullying may be related to race, religion or culture, disability, appearance or health conditions, sexual orientation, sexist or sexual language or young carers or children in care.
3. Our anti-bullying procedures involve teaching the entire school a set of safe and effective response to all problem behaviour, including bullying, in such a way that those who bully are not socially reinforced for demonstrating it.
4. The anti-bullying procedures at Mount Gravatt High are an addition to our already established positive behaviour support processes.

Prevention

5. Our school wide behaviour support practices will be maintained to ensure that:
 - All students know the school's expectations regarding Respect for Self, Others and the School and have been taught the expected behaviours
 - All students have been or are being taught the specific routines in the non-classroom areas, from exiting the classroom, conducting themselves in accordance with the school expectations in the playground and other areas, to re-entering their classrooms
 - All students are receiving high levels of positive reinforcement for demonstrating expected behaviours, including those associated with following our routines, from all staff in the non-classroom areas of the school
 - A high level of active supervision is a permanent staff routine in the non-classroom areas.
 - Students are explicitly taught Cybersafety and lessons on bullying. For example, how to safely conduct internet searches, what cyberbullying is and what they should do if they receive unwanted messages.

The school administration will investigate incidents of cyberbullying.

6. Mount Gravatt High will take part in the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence on the third Friday of March each year. This is to highlight the importance of bullying issues within our school community and what our school is doing to prevent this.

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP MOUNT GRAVATT HIGH SAFE

We can work together to keep knives out of school. At Mount Gravatt State High School

- Every student has the right to feel safe and be safe at school.
- No knives or weapons are allowed to be taken to school by students.
- There is no reason for a student to have a knife at school, and it is against the law for a student to have a knife at school.

If a student has a knife a school, they can expect serious consequences, such as fines and possibly jail. Longer jail sentences can be given to young people if someone is injured with a knife during an assault.

What kinds of knife are banned?

- No knives of any type are allowed at school, including flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives, star knives, butter knives, fruit knives or craft knives, or any item that can be used as a weapon, for example a chisel.
- Knives needed for school activities will be provided by the school, and the use of them will be supervised by school staff.
- In circumstances where students are required to have their own knives or sharp tools for particular subjects or vocational courses, the school will provide information about the procedures for carrying and storing these items at school.

The Principal can take action against a student who brings a knife to school.

- If a student has a knife at school, principals can inform the police.
- Possessing a knife at school may result in serious disciplinary consequences
- Police can search a student and their property at school if they suspect a student has a knife.
- A student may be charged with a criminal offence and may face serious consequences if convicted, including a fine or jail.
- School property such as desks or lockers may be searched if the principal suspects that a student has a knife on or in school property.
- If the principal suspects the student has a knife in their bag, the bag may be temporarily confiscated until police arrive.
- If the student does have a knife at school, it can be confiscated by the principal and given to the police.

How can parents help to keep Mount Gravatt High safe?

- Make sure your child knows what the laws and rules are about knives.
- Do not include knives or knife tools in children's lunch boxes, pencil cases or craft kits.
- Contact your school principal if you believe your child is being bullied or threatened at school.
- If you want to talk about students and knives at school, please contact The Principal.

Appendix 4

Incident Report

Name: Date:

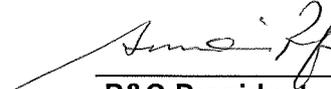
Person Completing Form:

Name PROBLEM BEHAVIOUR		
Date of incident	Time incident started	Time incident ended
Where was the student when the incident occurred?		
Who was working with the student when the incident occurred?		
Where was staff when the incident occurred?		
Who was next to the student when the incident occurred?		
Who else was in the immediate area when the incident occurred?		
What was the general atmosphere like at the time of the incident?		
What was the student doing at the time of the incident?		
What occurred immediately before the incident? Describe the activity, task, event.		
Describe what the student did during the incident.		
Describe the level of severity of the incident. (e.g. damage, injury to self/others)		
Describe who or what the incident was directed at.		
What action was taken to de-escalate or re-direct the problem?		
Briefly give your impression of why the student engaged in the above-described incident. (e.g. was angry because I asked him/her to stop teasing).		

12. Endorsement

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Principal


P&C President *VICE PRESIDENT*

Effective Date: /2018 to /2020

