(12) - CHILD CONDUCT POLICY

The Beehive Montessori School Inc. is committed to encouraging positive responsible behaviour and to the prevention of conduct that interferes with the orderly day to day activities of the School. Conduct resulting in injury to others, willful defiance or property destruction is not tolerated.

Rationale

The Montessori Method provides that respect is fundamental in the classroom – of students for each other and their work, and of the interactions between the director and the students.

Immediate intervention is essential for all forms of student misconduct, from minor disruption in the classroom to violence and property destruction.

The School commits to educate each student in the Montessori Philosophy. Respect of oneself and of one’s environment, self-reliance and self-discipline are fundamental for the student’s development morally, socially, intellectually and physically. There is also a commitment to the whole student and a healthy attitude to education that will enable the student to reach their full potential as a human being.

Objectives

- The School aims to encourage positive conduct and respect for others within the School.
- To redirect negative behaviour that could result in undesired outcomes.
- The School is consistent in using the behaviour management plan.

Links to School and Strategic Plan

The Constitution and the Strategic Plan uphold the rights and education of children with the Montessorian holistic approach to the development of children at School, at home and in society.
Other Related Issues

The Beehive Montessori School does not permit corporal punishment of students attending the School. “This does not preclude, however, the application of force only to prevent personal injury to, or damage to or the destruction of property of any person (including the student).” Education Reform Amendment Act (School Discipline), 1995

- School Education Act 1999.
- Education Department of WA.
- Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA)

Levels of Responsibility

The School, staff and volunteers have a responsibility to intervene when the orderly educational process is interrupted by a child’s misconduct.

The School Board is responsible for:
- developing and adopting the policy.
- ultimately responsible to the School community for ensuring that all measures have been adopted by the Principal and staff, that the policy is in place.
- investigating independently any instance where a child is recommended by the Principal for expulsion.

The Principal is responsible for:
- fairness and impartiality in investigating any misconduct.
- strict confidentiality.
- early intervention in serious misconduct.
- notifying the parents/guardian.
- arranging meetings between principal, director and parents/guardian.
- careful assessment of the misconduct and the consequences required to be taken.
- careful assessment of repeated serious misconduct.
Levels of Responsibility (cont’d)

The Principal is responsible for:

- maintaining thorough written records of any misconduct, consequence and meeting, notation of all interaction between principal, director, child and parents/guardian.
- asking the parents/guardian to take the child home temporarily.
- recommending to School Board that a child be removed from the School – expulsion.
- ensuring personal information is handled responsibly.
- the Misconduct Acknowledgement form being fully understood and signed by both parents, or guardian.
- ensuring that administration of all documentation is handled appropriately and is included in the child’s file.
- review of measures of any intervention.

The Vice Principals are responsible for:

- fairness and impartiality.
- strict confidentiality.
- ensuring personal information is handled responsibly.
- those duties as delegated by the Principal.

The Staff is responsible for:

- fairness and impartiality in investigating any misconduct.
- strict confidentiality.
- ensuring personal information is handled responsibly.
- encouraging all children to behave positively.
- direction towards work which will engage the child’s interest.
- application of conflict resolution techniques.
- careful assessment of the misconduct and the consequences required.
- applying accepted consequences to any minor misconduct.
- careful assessment of repeated serious misconduct.
- intervention in all misconduct.
- notifying the Principal of any serious misconduct.
- meeting with principal and parents/guardian.
Levels of Responsibility (cont’d)

The Staff is responsible for:
- maintaining thorough written records of any misconduct, consequence and meeting, notation of all interaction between principal, director, child and parents/guardian.
- ensuring personal information is handled responsibly.
- ensuring that documentation is included in the child’s file.

Documentation

- The Montessori Philosophy sets out consequences for child misconduct which are discussed in the Procedures and Guidelines.
- The Policy and Procedures is documented in the Parent Handbook.
- The Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for staff are documented in the Staff Handbook and Administration Procedures file.
- Parents/Guardian must sign a form acknowledging their understanding of the Misconduct Procedures prior to admission to the School (Misconduct Acknowledgement form).

Performance Review and Measurement

Every incident of misconduct in the School will be acted upon immediately and will have a consequence appropriate to the seriousness of the misconduct.

Activity

- Annual review of the Policy is required by the School Board.
- Annual review of the Procedures and Guidelines.
- Annual review of the proforma of the Misconduct Acknowledgement signed by parents/guardian.
Related Documents

Misconduct Procedures and Guidelines.

Proforma of the Misconduct Acknowledgement signed by parents/guardian.

The Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000

- Admissions Policy
- Child Health and Safety Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Child Safety Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Discrimination and Equal Opportunity Policy
- Educational Standards Policy
- Parent Information Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Workplace Safety and Health Policy