



1. RATIONALE

In partnership with the family and wider community, we aim to assist students to develop self-discipline and accept responsibility for their own behaviour. Whilst we aim to create a positive environment, which will limit discipline problems, we maintain a system for dealing with and resolving conflicts when they arise.

2. DEFINITIONS

Discipline means guiding the student towards self-control and self-direction. It can never be reduced to the mere enforcement of a set of rules.

- Our task is to promote constructive and positive behaviour.
- The development of a healthy self-concept in students is essential to self-discipline.
- Constructive discipline grows out of a caring teacher-student relationship.
- A well-planned curriculum contributes to effective classroom discipline.
- All members of our community have a right to be treated with respect and courtesy.
- Students' growth towards self-discipline is developmental and reward/punishment needs to be appropriate to each student's stage of development.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to Our Lady of Lourdes School.

4. PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 To raise awareness that every individual is responsible for his/her own actions and that we all have rights which must be respected.
- 4.2 To provide opportunities for students to display initiative and responsibility.
- 4.3 To reward and encourage students for the effort they make in school life.
- 4.4 To provide strategies for students who are negatively affecting the rights of others so that they may be assisted in modifying their behaviour.
- 4.6 To provide opportunities for children to develop appropriate interpersonal relationship skills.

5. PROCEDURES

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School will carry out the following actions to ensure these principles are met:

- Gotcha Awards will be distributed to children in the classroom for positive behaviour. Two awards (two each for seniors and juniors) will be drawn at each class and MJR Assemblies.
- Each class will have a set of class rules. These will be displayed in the classroom.
- There will be a clear set of consequences for not following these rules.
- Students start each day anew, with no carry-over from previous day.
- Teachers will endeavour to maintain a positive classroom environment with a system of rewards and affirmations.
- At the discretion of the staff involved, out of class intervention will result when a student has not responded to the classroom discipline policy or has made an infringement on the school ethos.

This will involve:

- a) An interview (counselling)
 - b) Matter referred to the Assistant Principal or Principal
 - c) Detention: Parents will be notified and the students will miss out on playing time during the lunch break.
- No student will be sent out of class except when continually disrupting the lesson and then only to a buddy classroom.
 - The teacher will counsel or discipline the student as soon as possible after the disruption and have him/her return to the class. Teachers will set up a 'time out' space in their classroom which is away from the other students if they have a student who is frequently disruptive.
 - Minor playground indiscretions will be dealt with by:
 - a) Staying with the teacher.
 - b) Time-out on path or bench.
 - c) Restorative justice practices, where students are encouraged to reflect on the effect of their actions on others.