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.