Lowanna College: School Number 01-8821

## **Rationale:**

Positive and responsible student behaviour is essential to the smooth running of a school, to the achievement of optimal learning opportunities, and to the development of a supportive and cooperative school environment.

## Aims:

- To build a school environment based on positive behaviour, mutual respect and cooperation.
- To manage unacceptable behaviour in a positive and professional manner.
- To establish well understood and logical consequences for poor student behaviour.

## Implementation:

- 1. At Lowanna College we value respectful relationships. As such, Lowanna College has a set of behaviour norms for all members of the College community, inclusive of staff, students and parents. These behaviour norms are based on the value of mutual respect.
- 2. The Education Training and Reform Act (2006) prohibits the use of corporal punishment in any Victorian Government school and additionally, the discipline of students at Lowanna College is based on procedural fairness.
- 3. All aspects of this policy are to be carried out in accordance with the Department of Education and Training (DET) discipline policy guidelines, inclusive of Ministerial Order 625 Suspensions and Expulsions. These policy guidelines contain detailed information that all Victorian Government schools must adhere to. These can be found at: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/discipline.aspx
- 4. Regulation 15 of the Education and Training Reform Regulations (2007) provides that "a member of staff of a Government school may take any reasonable action that is immediately required to restrain a student of the school from acts or behaviour dangerous to the member of staff, the student, or any other person."
- 5. As with physical restraint, seclusion should only be used when it is immediately required to protect the safety of the student or any other person, as permitted by Regulation 15. Seclusion is the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. This includes situations where a door is locked as well as where the door is blocked by other objects or held closed by staff. It does not include timeout, which is a behaviour management technique, that involves the monitored separation of the student in a non-locked setting, and is implemented for the purpose of calming.
- 6. Schools can discipline students for behaviour incidents occurring at school, at a school activity away from the school grounds, or while travelling to or from school or a school activity.
- 7. Staff at Lowanna College are responsible for maintaining accurate records of student behaviour through the use of the 'Compass' learning management system.
- 8. Disciplinary measures should always be proportionate to the nature of the behaviour, and are best employed in combination with support measures to identify and address causes of the behaviour.
- 9. Consequences for breaches of behaviour expectations at Lowanna College will involve a graded series of sanctions including counselling, withdrawal, loss of privileges or suspension, as outlined in the Lowanna College Student Behaviour Management System (attached) and DET guidelines.
- 10. Parents or guardians will be informed of, and actively encouraged to assist in the development of their children's behavioural performance, by the classroom teacher, the relevant year level coordinator, and/or a member of the Principal team.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with other policies and procedures relating to student welfare and wellbeing.

## **Evaluation:**

This policy can undergo a minor review at any time, with a major review as part of the College's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by College Council on 15 August 2016.

