

TIRIMOANA PRIMARY SCHOOL STAND-DOWN, SUSPENSION AND EXCLUSION POLICY

RATIONALE:

This school is committed to protecting the rights of all students, teachers and parents. When the behaviour of a student seriously impinges on the rights of others, the school may invoke procedures to address the situation.

PURPOSES:

1. To ensure the rights of others in the school are not adversely affected by the behaviour of students.
2. To ensure that consequences of serious behavioural disturbances are acted upon swiftly and fairly to protect the individual concerned and others affected by the behaviour.
3. To ensure procedures are followed as set out in the Education Act Stand-down, Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion Rules 1999 and further updates to guidelines specified by the Ministry of Education.

GUIDELINES:

1. Serious incidents such as defiance, continual disobedience, violence and substance abuse may involve stand-down, exclusion or expulsion procedures.
2. The first such incident/s will be treated urgently, with parent involvement and counselling and support offered. It will be made clear to both the student and the parents that the incident is very serious and that any further incident may ultimately result in suspension.
3. When it is determined that procedures must be invoked, the school will follow the procedures outlined in Ministry of Education Guidelines on Stand-downs, Suspensions, Exclusions and Expulsions.
4. For all stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions, the Principal is required to notify the local Ministry of Education office.
5. Any action taken must ensure that individual cases are dealt with in accordance with the principles of natural justice and human rights.
6. Incidents of physical abuse of staff and deliberate verbal abuse of staff by any student from Year 3 onwards may trigger a warning of stand-down or suspension and may ultimately result in a stand-down or suspension, if the behaviour continues.
7. The Principal is the only person entitled to stand-down or suspend a student. Decisions made as an outcome of suspension are the responsibility of the Board of Trustees.
8. All staff will apply school approved PB4L approaches when supporting students with behaviour challenges. Addressing areas of concern with Tier 2 and 3 students may require additional interventions beyond our PB4L flow-chart of actions.
9. Should a significant behaviour incident require use of restraint by a staff member, then the school policy on restraint and seclusion will take precedence. Possible outcomes for the need for restraint may lead to a stand-down or suspension.

CONCLUSION:

Suspension is a very serious consequence that will be used as sparingly as possible.