



Mount Samson State  
School

# Student Code of Conduct 2021-2024

## ***Every student succeeding***

***Every student succeeding is the shared vision of Queensland state schools. Our vision shapes regional and school planning to ensure every student receives the support needed to belong to the school community, engage purposefully in learning and experience academic success.***


Queensland Department of Education  
State Schools Strategy 2019-2023

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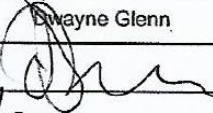
## Endorsement

Principal Name: Susan Hughes

Principal Signature: 

Date: 20/01/2021

P/C President and-or School Council Chair Name: Wayne Glenn

P/C President and-or School Council Chair Signature: 

Date: 25/1/2021

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## Purpose

Mount Samson State School is committed to providing a safe, respectful and disciplined learning environment for all students, staff, parents and visitors.

The Mount Samson State School Student Code of Conduct sets out the responsibilities and processes we use in our school to promote a productive, effective whole school approach to discipline.

Its purpose is to facilitate high standards of behaviour from all in the school community, ensuring learning and teaching in our school is prioritised, where all students are able to experience success and staff enjoy a safe workplace.

## Principal's Foreword

Mount Samson State School has a long and proud tradition of providing high quality education to students. We believe strong, positive relationships between all members of our school are the foundation to supporting the success of all students.

We are committed to providing a safe, respectful and disciplined learning environment for students and staff, where students have opportunities to engage in quality learning experiences and acquire values supportive of their lifelong wellbeing.

Students at Mount Samson State School aspire to *Six Pillars of Character*, which are articulated to create a positive learning environment that allows all students to successfully develop and learn.

**Trustworthiness** Be honest. Tell the truth. Be reliable – do what you have promised. Have courage to do the right thing. Be loyal to family and friends. Build a good reputation.

**Respect** Treat others with respect. Use good manners. Be considerate of the feelings of others. Accept that people are different. Don't threaten or hurt anyone – hands off. Deal peacefully with anger, insults or arguments.

**Responsibility** Do what you are supposed to do. Always do your best. Persevere – keep on trying. Use self-control. Think before you act. Be accountable for your choices.

**Fairness** Play by the rules. Take turns and share. Listen to others. Don't blame others carelessly. Be fair to others.

**Caring** Be kind. Show you care. Say thank you. Help people in need. Forgive others.

**Citizenship** Do your share of the jobs. Co-operate. Be involved. Obey rules. Respect teachers and other adults. Be a good neighbour. Protect the environment.

These values have been used in the development of this Student Code of Conduct, with the aim of helping shape and build the skills of all our students to be confident, self-disciplined and kind young people. Our school staff believe that communication and positive

connections with other people are the most valuable skills our communities need now and in the future.

Mount Samson State School staff take an educative approach to discipline; ie, behaviour can be taught and mistakes are opportunities for everyone to learn. Our Student Code of Conduct provides an overview of the school's policies relating to the provision of a safe and disciplined learning environment, including the use of digital technology, removal of student property and the approach to preventing and addressing incidents of bullying. It also details the steps school staff take to educate students about these policies and how students are explicitly taught the expected behaviours. Finally, it details the consequences that may apply when students breach the expected standards of behaviour, including the use of suspension or exclusion.

I thank the students, teachers, parents and other members of the community for their work in bringing this Mount Samson State School Student Code of Conduct together over the last six months. Your interest and views shared through the process of developing this document have been invaluable. It provides a clear explanation of what we expect from students and how we will support them to meet those expectations.

## Data Overview

This section is used to report on key measures related to student discipline, safety and wellbeing using existing data sets available to all schools. This provides an open and transparent reporting mechanism for the school community on the perceptions of students, parents and staff about school climate, attendance and school disciplinary absences.

The Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction data in the tables below is drawn from the School Opinion Survey. The School Opinion Survey is an annual collection of data designed to obtain the views of parents/caregivers, students and school staff from each school on what they do well and how they can improve.

Opinions on the school, student learning, and student wellbeing are sought from a parent/caregiver in all families and a sample of students from each state school.

Opinions on the school as a workplace are sought from all school staff and principals. There are additional questions for teaching staff on their confidence to teach and improve student outcomes. Principals are also asked about their confidence to lead the school and improve student outcomes.

There are four different confidential surveys for

- parents/caregivers
- students
- staff
- principals.

For more information, refer to [frequently asked questions](https://qed.qld.gov.au/publications/reports/statistics/schooling/schools/schoolopinionsurvey) page (<https://qed.qld.gov.au/publications/reports/statistics/schooling/schools/schoolopinionsurvey>).

# School Opinion Survey

## Parent opinion survey

Performance measure			
Percentage of parents/caregivers who agree <sup>#</sup> that:	2017	2018	2019
• their child is getting a good education at school (S2016)	89%	85%	96%
• this is a good school (S2035)	80%	71%	96%
• their child likes being at this school* (S2001)	94%	93%	96%
• their child feels safe at this school* (S2002)	96%	95%	98%
• their child's learning needs are being met at this school* (S2003)	79%	78%	92%
• their child is making good progress at this school* (S2004)	78%	90%	96%
• teachers at this school expect their child to do his or her best* (S2005)	97%	93%	98%
• teachers at this school provide their child with useful feedback about his or her school work* (S2006)	83%	88%	92%
• teachers at this school motivate their child to learn* (S2007)	84%	88%	94%
• teachers at this school treat students fairly* (S2008)	89%	86%	90%
• they can talk to their child's teachers about their concerns* (S2009)	95%	91%	94%
• this school works with them to support their child's learning* (S2010)	80%	74%	92%
• this school takes parents' opinions seriously* (S2011)	61%	46%	89%
• student behaviour is well managed at this school* (S2012)	79%	64%	94%
• this school looks for ways to improve* (S2013)	70%	59%	96%
• this school is well maintained* (S2014)	99%	95%	100%

## Student opinion survey

Performance measure			
Percentage of students who agree <sup>#</sup> that:	2017	2018	2019
• they are getting a good education at school (S2048)	97%	95%	95%
• they like being at their school* (S2036)	95%	93%	96%
• they feel safe at their school* (S2037)	97%	96%	96%
• their teachers motivate them to learn* (S2038)	97%	98%	99%
• their teachers expect them to do their best* (S2039)	100%	98%	99%
• their teachers provide them with useful feedback about their school work* (S2040)	99%	95%	95%
• teachers treat students fairly at their school* (S2041)	93%	93%	86%
• they can talk to their teachers about their concerns* (S2042)	91%	93%	89%
• their school takes students' opinions seriously* (S2043)	88%	90%	88%
• student behaviour is well managed at their school* (S2044)	91%	90%	85%
• their school looks for ways to improve* (S2045)	96%	97%	95%
• their school is well maintained* (S2046)	100%	98%	98%
• their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things* (S2047)	81%	92%	92%



## Staff opinion survey

Performance measure			
Percentage of school staff who agree# that:	2017	2018	2019
• they enjoy working at their school (S2069)	81%	88%	100%
• they feel that their school is a safe place in which to work (S2070)	94%	100%	100%
• they receive useful feedback about their work at their school (S2071)	65%	77%	91%
• they feel confident embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across the learning areas (S2114)	80%	79%	93%
• students are encouraged to do their best at their school (S2072)	97%	96%	100%
• students are treated fairly at their school (S2073)	100%	96%	95%
• student behaviour is well managed at their school (S2074)	93%	92%	90%
• staff are well supported at their school (S2075)	68%	73%	86%
• their school takes staff opinions seriously (S2076)	64%	72%	95%
• their school looks for ways to improve (S2077)	84%	92%	100%
• their school is well maintained (S2078)	97%	96%	100%
• their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things (S2079)	76%	77%	100%

\* Nationally agreed student and parent/caregiver items.

# 'Agree' represents the percentage of respondents who Somewhat Agree, Agree or Strongly Agree with the statement.

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

## School Disciplinary Absences (SDA)

Principals use a range of disciplinary consequences to address inappropriate behaviour. Suspensions, exclusions and cancellations of enrolment are only used as a last resort option for addressing serious behaviour issues. Principals balance individual circumstances and the actions of the student with the needs and rights of school community members.

All state schools are required to report School Disciplinary Absences (SDA) for the school year in their school annual report. There are four main categories of SDA: short suspension, long suspension, exclusion and charge-related suspension.

The following table shows the count of incidents for students recommended for each type of school disciplinary absence reported at the school.

MOUNT SAMSON STATE SCHOOL SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY ABSENCES			
Type	2017	2018	2019
Short Suspensions – 1 to 10 days	4	1	1
Long Suspensions – 11 to 20 days	0	0	0
Charge related Suspensions	0	0	0
Exclusions	0	0	0

## Learning and Behaviour Statement

All areas of Mount Samson State School are learning and teaching environments. We consider behaviour management to be an opportunity for valuable social learning, as well as a means of maximising the success of academic education programs.

We share the following beliefs about student behaviour and its impact on learning:

- Every student has the right to feel safe when they come to school.
- Social outcomes are valued, as are the academic outcomes, in determining success.
- A respectful classroom and school is essential in delivering positive academic outcomes.
- Student behaviour is a joint responsibility of students, parents and staff, as student behaviour is influenced by many factors both inside and outside the school environment.
- Consistent, responsible parenting and teaching, which models acceptable social behaviour, is an important influence on student behaviour.
- Good classroom teaching, a stimulating and an engaging school environment promote positive student behaviour.

Our Student Code of Conduct outlines our system for facilitating positive behaviours, preventing problem behaviour and responding to unacceptable behaviours. Through our school plan, shared expectations for student behaviour are clear to everyone. This assists Mount Samson State School to create and maintain a positive and productive teaching and learning environment. All school community members have clear and consistent expectations and understandings of their role in the educational process.

Our school community has identified the following values to teach and promote our high standards of responsible behaviour:

- Trustworthiness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Fairness
- Caring
- Citizenship

Our school values have been agreed upon and endorsed by all staff and our school P&C.

Everyone brings their own set of personal beliefs to a school community. These beliefs influence their decisions, behaviour and social practices. It is reasonable to expect that not everyone will share the same set of beliefs, and this contributes to a richly diverse social environment in each school. It can also contribute to differences in expectations and force us to reflect on our own understanding of what we consider acceptable and unacceptable.

## Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

Mount Samson State School uses multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) as the foundation for our integrated approach to learning and behaviour. MTSS is a preventative, differentiated model grounded in practical strategies, targeted planning and data-informed decision-making. Based on a problem-solving model, in MTSS, school staff match increasingly intensive interventions to the identified needs of individual students.

The multi-tiered approach is an evidence-based framework used to:

- analyse and improve student behaviour and learning outcomes
- ensure that evidence-based practices are used with efficacy by staff to support students
- continually support staff members to maintain consistent school and classroom improvement practices.

At Mount Samson State School we believe discipline is about more than punishment. It is a word that reflects our belief that student behaviour is a part of the overall teaching and learning approach in our school. Our staff take responsibility for making their expectations clear, for providing supportive instruction about how to meet these expectations, and strive to use behavioural incidents as opportunities to re-teach.

The development of the Mount Samson State School Student Code of Conduct is an opportunity to explain the 6 Pillars of Character to parents and students, and gain their support to implement a consistent approach to teaching behaviour. The language and expectations of the 6 Pillars of Character can be used in any environment, including the home setting for students. Doing everything we can do to set students up for success is a shared goal of every parent and school staff member.

Any students or parents who have questions or would like to discuss the Student Code of Conduct or 6 Pillars of Character are encouraged to speak with the class teacher or make an appointment to meet with the principal.

Tier	Prevention Description
1	<p>Universal Support for <u><b>all students</b></u> (100%) for their academic and behavioural development. The focus is on the whole-school implementation of both the Australian Curriculum and the 6 Pillars of Character.</p> <p>This involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• teaching behaviours in the setting they will be used</li> <li>• being consistent when addressing challenging behaviour, while taking developmental norms and behavioural function into account</li> <li>• providing refresher lessons and targeted recognition throughout the school year so skills are ready and likely to be used when students need them</li> <li>• asking students and their families for their perspectives on school climate, instruction, reinforcement, and discipline so improvements in Tier 1 may be made.</li> </ul>

<p><b>2</b></p>	<p>Targeted instruction and support for <b><u>some students</u></b> (10-15%) are more intense than Tier 1 services, providing more time and specialisation in services from a range of school-based staff to enable students to meet the required academic and behavioural standards.</p> <p>Tier 2 supports build on the lessons provided at Tier 1, and may prevent the need for more intensive interventions. Tier 2 supports are provided to small groups of students with similar needs, offering more time and/or detailed instruction on the Australian Curriculum or particular aspects of the 6 Pillars of Character. The types of interventions offered at this level will vary according to the needs of each school's student body, but all have certain things in common:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is a clear connection between the skills taught in the interventions and the school-wide expectations.</li> <li>• interventions require little time of classroom teachers and are easy to sustain</li> <li>• variations within each intervention are limited</li> <li>• interventions have a good chance of working (e.g., they are “evidence-based” interventions that are matched to the student’s need).</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p>Intensive support for <b><u>few students</u></b> (2-5%) who require the most intensive support a school can provide. These are usually delivered in very small groups or on an individual basis.</p> <p>Tier 3 support continues to build on the lessons and supports provided at Tiers 1 and 2, becoming more individualised and more intensive until teams can identify what is needed for a student to be successful. Tier 3 support is based on the underlying reasons for a student’s behaviour (their Functional Behaviour Assessment or FBA) and should include strategies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PREVENT problem behaviour</li> <li>• TEACH the student an acceptable replacement behaviour</li> <li>• REINFORCE the student’s use of the replacement behaviour</li> <li>• MINIMISE the payoff for problem behaviour.</li> </ul> <p>Tier 3 support exists along a continuum. Many students can benefit from a simple Functional Behaviour Assessment (FBA) that identifies unique strategies to help the student achieve success. A smaller percentage of students may require a more comprehensive FBA that includes a more thorough process for data collection, teaming, and problem solving. A much smaller percentage of students may need an intensive FBA and wraparound plan that includes personnel from outside agencies and rigorous problem solving procedures.</p>

## Consideration of Individual Circumstances

Staff at Mount Samson State School take into account students' individual circumstances, such as their behaviour history, disability, mental health and wellbeing, religious and cultural considerations, home environment and care arrangements when teaching expectations, responding to inappropriate behaviour or applying a disciplinary consequence.

In considering the individual circumstances of each student, we recognise that the way we teach, the support we provide and the way we respond to students will differ. This reflects the principle of equity, where every student is given the support they need to be successful. This also means that not everyone will be treated the same, because treating everyone the same is not fair. For example, some students need additional support to interpret or understand an expectation. Others may benefit from more opportunities to practise a required skill or behaviour. For a small number of students, the use of certain disciplinary consequences may be considered inappropriate or ineffective due to complex trauma or family circumstances. These are all matters that our teachers and principal consider with each individual student in both the instruction of behaviour and the response to behaviour.

Our teachers are also obliged by law to respect and protect the privacy of individual students. So, while we understand the interest of other students, staff and parents to know what consequence another student might have received, we will not disclose or discuss this information with anyone but the student's family. This applies even if the behavioural incident, such as bullying, involves your child. You can be assured that school staff take all matters, such as bullying, very seriously and will address them appropriately. We expect that parents and students will respect the privacy of other students and families.

If you have concerns about the behaviour of another student at the school, or the way our staff have responded to their behaviour, please make an appointment with the principal to discuss the matter.

## Student Wellbeing

Mount Samson State School offers a range of programs and services to support the wellbeing of students in our school. We encourage parents and students to speak with their class teacher or make an appointment to meet with the guidance officer if they would like individual advice about accessing particular services.

Learning and wellbeing are inextricably linked. Students learn best when their wellbeing is optimised, and they develop a strong sense of wellbeing when they experience success at school. The [student learning and wellbeing framework](#) supports state schools with creating positive school cultures and embedding student wellbeing in all aspects of school life through connecting the learning environment, curriculum and pedagogy, policies, procedures and partnerships for learning and life.

## Curriculum and pedagogy

Schools build the foundations for wellbeing and lifelong learning through curriculum embedding [personal and social capabilities](#) (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and social management) in the implementation of the [P–12 curriculum, assessment and reporting framework](#).

We acknowledge the positive impact that a meaningful relationship between teacher and students can have on students' academic and social outcomes.

## Network of Student Support - STAR Team

Mount Samson State School is proud to have a comprehensive STAR Team in place to help the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of every student. In addition to the assistance provided by class teachers, we have a team of professionals whose dedicated roles are to help ensure our school is an inclusive, nurturing environment.

This team is called the STAR Team and comprises the following staff:

Principal  
Head of Department – Curriculum  
Guidance Officer  
Speech Pathologist  
Inclusion Team Leader  
Inclusion Teacher  
Class Teacher/s

Students can approach any trusted school staff member at Mount Samson State School to seek assistance or advice. If they are unable to assist they will provide guidance and help ensure the student is connected to the appropriate representative of the STAR team.

Additionally, it is important for students and parents to understand there are regional and statewide support services also available to supplement the school network. These include Principal Advisor Student Protection, Autism Coach, Inclusion Coach, Advisory Visiting Teachers and Senior Guidance Officers. For more information about these services and their roles, please speak with the Principal, Susan Hughes.

## Whole School Approach to Discipline

### Differentiated and Explicit Teaching

Mount Samson State School is a disciplined school environment that provides differentiated teaching to respond to the learning needs of all students. This involves teaching expected behaviours and providing opportunities for students to practise these behaviours. Teachers reinforce expected behaviours, provide feedback and correction, and opportunities for practise.

The first step in facilitating standards of positive behaviour is communicating those standards to **all** students. At Mount Samson State School we emphasise the importance of explicitly teaching students the behaviours we want them to demonstrate at school. Communicating behavioural expectations is a form of universal behaviour support - a strategy directed towards **all** students, designed to prevent problem behaviour and provide a framework for responding to unacceptable behaviour.

A set of behavioural expectations in specific settings has been attached to each of our *Six Pillars of Character*. The School-Wide Expectations Teaching Matrix outlines our agreed behavioural expectations in all school settings (see *Appendix 1 on page 38*).

A classroom management plan allows the teacher to clarify the behaviours we expect from students in the learning environment and what they can expect in return. The goal of a classroom management plan is to have fair, consistent and an age appropriate strategy to establish a safe, orderly and positive classroom environment.

At the commencement of each year the teacher and students will collaboratively develop the plan which will be communicated to parents. The plan will consist of:

- a clear set of **classroom rules** which can be readily observed by all children;
- a class specific set of **consequences** for children who choose to behave inappropriately;
- a set of **acknowledgements**, both individual and class, which will support students who behave in an appropriate way; and
- a **plan of action** in case of persistent or severe misbehaviour.

Every classroom in our school uses the 6 Pillars of Character Expectations Matrix, illustrated below, as a basis for developing their behaviour standards. Using this matrix, the class teacher works with all students to explain exactly what each of the expectations look, sound and feel like in their classroom. The completed matrix is on display in every classroom, used as the basis of teaching expectations throughout the year and revisited regularly to address any new or emerging issues.

6 Pillars of Character Expectations Matrix				
Pillar	Enter classroom	Group work	Individual work	Exit classroom
Respect				
Responsibility				
Caring				
Fairness				
Trustworthiness				
Citizenship				

Teachers will regularly teach our students the positive behaviour expectations based on the *Six Pillars of Character*.

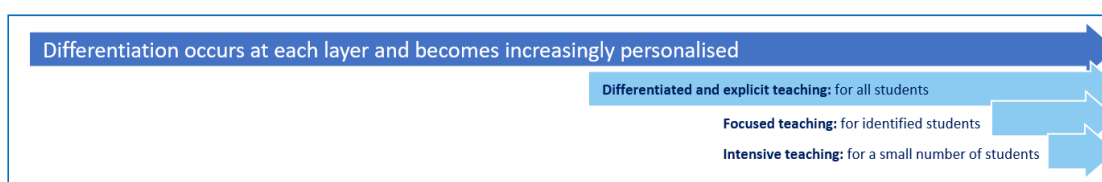
Teachers will readily **acknowledge and praise** students for positive behaviours. Positive behaviour is also recognised weekly on parade with “Student of the Week” awards in terms 1 to 3 and Super Samsonite Awards in term 4.

Mount Samson State School implements the following proactive and preventative processes and strategies to support student behaviour:

- a relevant, stimulating curriculum;
- differentiated curriculum to support student needs;
- high quality teaching strategies;
- modelling acceptable behaviours;
- induction processes for new staff, students and parents;
- timely/relevant professional development;
- classroom management plans;
- efficient and effective inclusion support;
- regular pillars parades dedicated to reinforcing expectations and addressing any playground issues;
- a recognition system for acknowledging positive behaviours;
- Implementation of the Zones of Regulation and The Pause Program.

Teachers at Mount Samson State School vary what students are taught, how they are taught and how students can demonstrate what they know as part of this differentiated approach to behaviour. These decisions about differentiation are made in response to data and day-to-day monitoring that indicates the behavioural learning needs of students. This enables our teachers to purposefully plan a variety of ways to engage students; assist them to achieve the expected learning; and to demonstrate their learning.

There are three main layers to differentiation, as illustrated in the diagram below. This model is the same used for academic and pedagogical differentiation.



These three layers map directly to the tiered approach discussed earlier in the Learning and Behaviour section (pages 11 and 12). Each layer provides progressively more personalised supports for students.



## Focused Teaching

Approximately 15% of all students in any school or classroom may require additional support to meet behaviour expectations, even after being provided with differentiated and explicit teaching. These students may have difficulty meeting behavioural expectations during a particular part of the day or as part of a learning area/subject, and focused teaching is provided to help them achieve success.

Focused teaching involves revisiting key behavioural concepts and/or skills, and using explicit and structured teaching strategies in particular aspects of a behaviour skill. Focused teaching provides students with more opportunities to practise skills and multiple opportunities to achieve the intended learning and expected behaviour.

Support staff, including teachers with specialist expertise in learning, language or development, work collaboratively with class teachers at Mount Samson State School to provide focused teaching. Focused teaching is aligned to the Expectations Matrix, and student progress is monitored by the classroom teacher/s to identify those who:

- no longer require the additional support
- require ongoing focussed teaching
- require intensive teaching.

Mount Samson State School has a range of STAR Team staff in place to help arrange and deliver focused teaching to students who need more support to meet expectations.

## Intensive Teaching

Research shows that even in an effective, well-functioning school there will always be approximately 5% of the student population who require intensive teaching to achieve behavioural expectations. Intensive teaching involves frequent and explicit instruction, individually or in small groups, to develop mastery of basic behavioural concepts, skills and knowledge.

Some students may require intensive teaching for a short period, for particular behaviour skills. Other students may require intensive teaching for a more prolonged period. Decisions about the approach will be made based on data collected from their teacher/s, and following consultation with the student's family.

For a small number of students who continue to display behaviours that are deemed complex and challenging, individualised, function-based behaviour assessment and support plans, including multi-agency collaboration may be provided to support the student. This approach will seek to address the acute impact of barriers to learning and participation faced by students who are negotiating a number of complex personal issues.

Individual behaviour support plans are developed for students with high behavioural needs, enabling staff to make the necessary adjustments to support these students consistently across all classroom and non-classroom settings.

# Legislative Delegations

## Legislation

In this section of the Mount Samson State School Student Code of Conduct are links to legislation which influences form and content of Queensland state school discipline procedures.

- [Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Child Protection Act 1999 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#)
- [Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005](#)
- [Criminal Code Act 1899 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Act 2006](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Regulation 2017](#)
- [Human Rights Act 2019 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Information Privacy Act 2009 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Judicial Review Act 1991 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Right to Information Act 2009 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2011 \(Cwth\)](#)

## Delegations

Under the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, state school principals are responsible for “controlling and regulating student discipline in the school”.

Principals are afforded a number of **non-delegable powers** to assist them to meet this obligation, including the authority to suspend, exclude or cancel the enrolment of a student at the school. These decision-making responsibilities cannot be delegated to other staff in the school, such as deputy principals.

The details of these responsibilities are outlined in the legislative instruments of delegation and instruments of authorisation provided below:

- [Education \(General Provisions\) Act 2006 Director-General's delegations](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Act 2006 Minister's delegations](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Act 2006 Director-General's authorisations](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Regulation 2006 Minister's delegations](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Regulation 2017 Director-General's delegations](#)

## Disciplinary Consequences

The disciplinary consequences model used at Mount Samson State School follows the same differentiated approach used in the proactive teaching and support of student behavioural expectations.

The majority of students will be confident and capable of meeting established expectations that are clear, explicitly taught and practised. In-class corrective feedback, sanctions and rule reminders may be used by teachers to respond to low-level or minor problem behaviours.

Some students will need additional support, time and opportunities to practise expected behaviours. Approximately 15% of the student population may experience difficulty with meeting the stated expectations, and even with focussed teaching, in-class corrective feedback, sanctions and rule reminders continue to display low-level problem behaviour. A continued pattern of low-level behaviour can interfere with teaching and learning for the whole class, and a decision may be needed by the class teacher to refer the student to the school administration team immediately for determination of a disciplinary consequence.

For a small number of students, approximately 2-5%, a high level of differentiated support or intensive teaching is required to enable them to meet the behavioural expectations. This may be needed throughout the school year on a continuous basis. The determination of the need will be made by the principal in consultation with staff and other relevant stakeholders. On occasion the behaviour of a student may be so serious, such as causing harm to other students or to staff, that the principal may determine that an out of school suspension or exclusion is necessary as a consequence for the student's behaviour. Usually this course of action is only taken when the behaviour is either so serious as to warrant immediate removal of the student for the safety of others, and no other alternative discipline strategy is considered sufficient to deal with the problem behaviour.

The differentiated responses to problem behaviour can be organised into three tiers, with increasing intensity of support and consequences to address behaviour that endangers others or causes major, ongoing interference with class or school operations.

### Differentiated

Class teacher provides in-class or in-school disciplinary responses to low-level or minor problem behaviour. This may include:

- Pre-correction (e.g. "Remember, walk quietly to your seat")
- Non-verbal and visual cues (e.g. posters, hand gestures)
- Whole class practising of routines
- Ratio of 5 positive to 1 negative commentary or feedback to class
- Corrective feedback (e.g. "Hand up when you want to ask a question")
- Rule reminders (e.g. "When the bell goes, stay seated until I dismiss you")
- Explicit behavioural instructions (e.g. "Pick up your pencil")

- Proximity control
- Tactical ignoring of inappropriate behaviour (not student)
- Revised seating plan and relocation of student/s
- Individual positive reinforcement for appropriate behaviour
- Classwide incentives
- Reminders of incentives or class goals
- Redirection
- Low voice and tone for individual instructions
- Give 30 second 'take-up' time for student/s to process instruction/s
- Reduce verbal language
- Break down tasks into smaller chunks
- Provide positive choice of task order (e.g. "Which one do you want to start with?")
- Prompt student to take a break or time away in class
- Model appropriate language, problem solving and verbalise thinking process (e.g. "I'm not sure what is the next step, who can help me?")
- Provide demonstration of expected behaviour
- Peer consequence (e.g. corrective feedback to influential peer demonstrating same problem behaviour)
- Private discussion with student about expected behaviour
- Reprimand for inappropriate behaviour
- Warning of more serious consequences (e.g. removal from classroom)
- Detention

## Focussed

Class teacher is supported by other school-based staff to address in-class problem behaviour. This may include:

- Functional Behaviour Assessment
- Individual student behaviour support strategies (e.g. Student behaviour plan)
- Targeted skills teaching in small group
- Token economy
- Detention
- Behavioural contract
- Counselling and guidance support
- Self-monitoring plan
- Check in, Check Out strategy
- Teacher coaching and debriefing
- Referral to STAR Team for team based problem solving
- Stakeholder meeting with parents and external agencies

## Intensive

School leadership team work in consultation with STAR Team to address persistent or ongoing serious problem behaviour. This may include:

- Functional Behaviour Assessment based individual support plan
- Complex case management and review
- Stakeholder meeting with parents and external agencies including regional specialists
- Temporary removal of student property (e.g. mobile phone)
- Short term suspension (up to 10 school days)

- Long term suspension (up to 20 school days)
- Charge related suspension (student has been charged with a serious criminal offence is suspended from school until the charge has been dealt with by the relevant justice authorities)
- Suspension pending exclusion (student is suspended from school pending a decision by the Director-General or delegate (principal) about their exclusion from school)
- Exclusion (student is excluded from a particular state school site, a group of state schools or all state schools in Queensland for a defined period of time or permanently)
- Cancellation of enrolment for students older than compulsory school age who refuse to participate in the educational program provided at the school.

## School Disciplinary Absences

A School Disciplinary Absence (SDA) is an enforced period of absence from attending a Queensland state school, applied by the principal as a consequence to address poor student behaviour. There are four types of SDA:

- Short suspension (1 to 10 school days)
- Long suspension (11 to 20 school days)
- Charge-related suspension
- Exclusion (period of not more than one year or permanently).

At Mount Samson State School, the use of any SDA is considered a very serious decision. It is typically only used by the principal when other options have been exhausted or the student's behaviour is so dangerous that continued attendance at the school is considered a risk to the safety or wellbeing of the school community.

Parents and students may appeal a long suspension, charge-related suspension or exclusion decision. A review will be conducted by the Director-General or their delegate, and a decision made within 40 school days to confirm, amend/vary or set aside the original SDA decision by the principal.

The appeal process is a thorough review of all documentation associated with the SDA decision and provides an opportunity for both the school and the family to present their case in the matter. Time is afforded for collection, dissemination and response to the materials by both the school and the family. It is important that the purpose of the appeal is understood so that expectations are clear, and appropriate supports are in place to ensure students can continue to access their education while completing their SDA.

### Re-entry following suspension

Students who are suspended from Mount Samson State School may be invited to attend a re-entry meeting on the day of their scheduled return to school. The main purpose of this meeting is to welcome the student, with their parent/s, back to the school. It is **not a time** to review the student's behaviour or the decision to suspend, the student has already received a consequence through their disciplinary absence from school. The aim of the re-entry meeting is for school staff to set the student up for future success and strengthen home-school communication. It may be offered as a support for the student to assist in their successful re-engagement in school following suspension.

**Reasonable adjustments**

In planning the re-entry meeting, school staff will consider reasonable adjustments needed to support the attendance and engagement of the student. This includes selecting an appropriate and accessible meeting space, organising translation or interpretation services or supports (e.g. AUSLAN), provision of written and/or pictorial information and other relevant accommodations. The inclusion of support staff, such as guidance officers, may also offer important advice to ensure a successful outcome to the re-entry meeting.

## School Policies

Mount Samson State School has tailored school discipline policies designed to ensure students, staff and visitors work cooperatively to create and maintain a supportive and safe learning environment. Please ensure that you familiarise yourself with the responsibilities for students, staff and visitors outlined in the following policies:

- Temporary removal of student property
- Use of mobile phones and other devices by students
- Preventing and responding to bullying
- Appropriate use of social media

### Temporary removal of student property

The removal of any property in a student's possession may be necessary to promote the caring, safe and supportive learning environment of the school, to maintain and foster mutual respect between all state school staff and students. The **Temporary removal of student property by school staff procedure** outlines the processes, conditions and responsibilities for state school principals and school staff when temporarily removing student property.

In determining what constitutes a reasonable time to retain student property, the principal or state school staff will consider:

- the condition, nature or value of the property
- the circumstances in which the property was removed
- the safety of the student from whom the property was removed, other students or staff members
- good management, administration and control of the school.

The principal or state school staff determine when the temporarily removed student property can be returned, unless the property has been handed to the Queensland Police Service.

The following items are explicitly prohibited at Mount Samson State School and will be removed if found in a student's possession:

- illegal items or weapons (e.g. guns, knives\*, throwing stars, brass knuckles, chains)
- imitation guns or weapons
- potentially dangerous items (e.g. blades, rope)
- drugs\*\* (including tobacco)
- alcohol
- aerosol deodorants or cans (including spray paint)
- explosives (e.g. fireworks, flares, sparklers)
- flammable solids or liquids (e.g. fire starters, mothballs, lighters)
- poisons (e.g. weed killer, insecticides)
- inappropriate or offensive material (e.g. racist literature, pornography, extremist propaganda).

\* No knives of any type are allowed at school, including flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives, star knives, butter knives, fruit knives or craft knives, or any item that can be used as a weapon, for example a chisel. Knives needed for school activities will be provided by the school, and the use of them will be supervised by school staff. In circumstances where students are required to have their own knives or sharp tools for particular subjects or vocational courses, the school will provide information about the procedures for carrying and storing these items at school.

\*\* The administration of medications to students by school staff is only considered when a prescribing health practitioner has determined that it is necessary or when there is no other alternative in relation to the treatment of a specific health need. Schools require medical authorisation to administer any medication to students (**including over-the-counter medications such as paracetamol or alternative medicines**).

## Responsibilities

### State school staff at Mount Samson State School:

- do not require the student's consent to search school property such as lockers, desks or laptops that are supplied to the student through the school;
- may seize a student's bag where there is suspicion that the student has a dangerous item (for example, a knife) in their school bag, prior to seeking consent to search from a parent or calling the police;
- consent from the student or parent is required to examine or otherwise deal with the temporarily removed student property. For example, staff who temporarily remove a mobile phone from a student are not authorised to unlock the phone or to read, copy or delete messages stored on the phone;
- there may, however, be emergency circumstances where it is necessary to search a student's property without the student's consent or the consent of the student's parents (e.g. to access an EpiPen for an anaphylactic emergency);
- consent from the student or parent is required to search the person of a student (e.g. pockets or shoes). If consent is not provided and a search is considered necessary, the police and the student's parents should be called to make such a determination.

### Parents of students at Mount Samson State School:

- ensure your children do not bring property onto schools grounds or other settings used by the school (e.g. camp, sporting venues) that:
  - is prohibited according to the Mount Samson State School Student Code of Conduct
  - is illegal
  - puts the safety or wellbeing of others at risk
  - does not preserve a caring, safe, supportive or productive learning environment
  - does not maintain and foster mutual respect;
- collect temporarily removed student property as soon as possible after they have been notified by the principal or state school staff that the property is available for collection.

### Students of Mount Samson State School:

- do not bring property onto school grounds or other settings used by the school (e.g. camp, sporting venues) that:



- is prohibited according to the Mount Samson State School Code of Conduct
- is illegal
- puts the safety or wellbeing of others at risk
- does not preserve a caring, safe, supportive or productive learning environment
- does not maintain and foster mutual respect;
- collect their property as soon as possible when advised by the principal or state school staff it is available for collection.

## Use of mobile phones and digital devices by students

Digital literacy refers to the skills needed to live, learn and work in a society where communication and access to information is dominated by digital technologies like mobile phones. However, the benefits brought about through these diverse technologies can be easily overshadowed by deliberate misuse, which harms others or disrupts learning.

### Responsibilities

The responsibilities for students using digital devices at school or during school activities, are outlined below.

It is **acceptable** for students at Mount Samson State School to:

- use school digital devices for
  - assigned class work and assignments set by teachers
  - developing appropriate literacy, communication and information skills
  - authoring text, artwork, audio and visual material for publication on the intranet or internet for educational purposes as supervised and approved by the school
  - conducting general research for school activities and projects
  - communicating or collaborating with other students, teachers, parents or experts in relation to school work
  - accessing online references such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias, etc.
  - researching and learning through the department's eLearning environment
- be courteous, considerate and respectful of others when using a digital devices
- seek teacher's approval to use a digital device.

It is **unacceptable** for students at Mount Samson State School to:

- use a mobile phone or other devices in an unlawful manner
- use a mobile phone or other personal recording device on school grounds
- download, distribute or publish offensive messages or pictures
- use obscene, inflammatory, racist, discriminatory or derogatory language
- use language and/or threats of violence that may amount to bullying and/or harassment, or even stalking
- insult, harass or attack others or use obscene or abusive language
- deliberately waste printing and internet resources
- damage computers, printers or network equipment

- commit plagiarism or violate copyright laws
- ignore teacher directions for the use of social media, online email and internet chat
- send chain letters or spam email (junk mail)
- knowingly download viruses or any other programs capable of breaching the department's network security
- use in-phone cameras anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets
- invade someone's privacy by recording personal conversations or daily activities and/or the further distribution (e.g. forwarding, texting, uploading, Bluetooth use etc.) of such material

At all times students, while using ICT facilities and devices supplied by the school, will be required to act in line with the requirements of the Mount Samson State School Student Code of Conduct. In addition students and their parents should:

- understand the responsibility and behaviour requirements (as outlined by the school) that come with accessing the department's ICT network facilities
- ensure they have the skills to report and discontinue access to harmful information if presented via the internet or email
- be aware that:
  - access to ICT facilities and devices provides valuable learning experiences for students and supports the school's teaching and learning programs
  - the school is not responsible for safeguarding information stored by students on departmentally-owned student computers or mobile devices
  - schools may remotely access departmentally-owned student computers or mobile devices for management purposes
  - students who use a school's ICT facilities and devices in a manner that is not appropriate may be subject to disciplinary action by the school, which could include restricting network access
  - despite internal departmental controls to manage content on the internet, illegal, dangerous or offensive information may be accessed or accidentally displayed
  - teachers will always exercise their duty of care, but avoiding or reducing access to harmful information also requires responsible use by the student
  - if a parent wishes their child to bring a mobile phone or other digital device to school for before and after school security purposes these must be handed in at the office at the beginning of the day and collected at the end of the day (these are not to be used on school grounds).

## Preventing and responding to bullying

### Bullying

The agreed national definition for Australian schools describes bullying as:

- ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm;
- involving an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening;
- happening in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records);
- having immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

Behaviours that do not constitute bullying include:

- mutual arguments and disagreements (where there is no power imbalance)
- not liking someone or a single act of social rejection
- one-off acts of meanness or spite
- isolated incidents of aggression, intimidation or violence.

However, these conflicts are still considered serious and need to be addressed and resolved. At Mount Samson State School our staff will work to quickly respond to any matters raised of this nature in collaboration with students and parents.

The following flowchart explains the actions Mount Samson State School teachers will take when they receive a report about student bullying, including bullying which may have occurred online or outside of the school setting. Please note that the indicative timeframes will vary depending on the professional judgment of teachers who receive the bullying complaint and their assessment of immediate risk to student/s.

## Mount Samson State School - Bullying response flowchart for teachers

Please note these timelines may be adjusted depending on the unique circumstances and risk associated with each situation. This is at the professional judgment of the staff involved. Timeframes should be clearly discussed and agreed with student and family.

### Key contacts for students and parents to report bullying:

Prep to Year 6 – Class teacher

Administration – Susan Hughes (Principal) and Jodie Beverley (HOD-C)

First hour  
Listen

- Provide a safe, quiet space to talk
- Reassure the student that you will listen to them
- Let them share their experience and feelings without interruption
- If you hold immediate concerns for the student's safety, let the student know how you will address these. Immediate in this circumstance is where the staff member believes the student is likely to experience harm (from others or self) within the next 24 hours

Day one  
Document

- Ask the student for examples they have of the alleged bullying (e.g. hand written notes or screenshots)
- Write a record of your communication with the student
- Check back with the student to ensure you have the facts correct
- Enter the record in OneSchool
- Notify parent/s that the issue of concern is being investigated

Day two  
Collect

- Gather additional information from other students, staff or family
- Review any previous reports or records for students involved
- Make sure you can answer who, what, where, when and how
- Clarify information with student and check on their wellbeing
- Evaluate the information to determine if bullying has occurred or if another disciplinary matter is at issue

Day three  
Discuss

- Make a time to meet with the student to discuss next steps
- Ask the student what they believe will help address the situation
- Engage the student as part of the solution
- Provide the student and parent with information about student support network
- Agree to a plan of action and timeline for the student, parent and yourself

Day four  
Implement

- Document the plan of action in OneSchool
- Complete all actions agreed with student and parent within agreed timeframes
- Monitor student and check in regularly on their wellbeing
- Seek assistance from student support network if needed

Day five  
Review

- Meet with the student to review situation
- Discuss what has changed, improved or worsened
- Explore other options for strengthening student wellbeing or safety
- Report back to parent
- Record outcomes in OneSchool

Ongoing  
Follow up

- Continue to check in with student on regular basis until concerns have been mitigated
- Record notes of follow-up meetings in OneSchool
- Refer matter to specialist staff within 48 hours if problems escalate
- Look for opportunities to improve school wellbeing for all students

## Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is treated at Mount Samson State School with the same level of seriousness as in-person bullying. The major difference with cyberbullying however, is that unlike in-person bullying, cyberbullying follows students into their community, their homes and their bedrooms, giving them no opportunity to escape the harassment or abuse during the evening, weekends or holidays.

In the first instance, students or parents who wish to make a report about cyberbullying should approach the regular class teacher.

It is important for students, parents and staff to know that state school principals have the authority to take disciplinary action to address student behaviours that occur outside of school hours or school grounds. This includes cyberbullying. Parents and students who have concerns about cyberbullying incidents occurring during school holidays should immediately seek assistance through the [Office of the e-Safety Commissioner](#) or the Queensland Police Service.

Students enrolled at Mount Samson State School may face in-school disciplinary action, such as detention or removal of privileges, or more serious consequences such as suspension or exclusion from school for engaging in behaviour that adversely affects, or is likely to adversely affect, other students or the good order and management of the school. This includes behaviour such as cyberbullying which occurs outside of school hours or settings, for example on the weekend or during school holidays. It also applies to inappropriate online behaviour of enrolled students that is directed towards other community members or students from other school sites.

Parents or other stakeholders who engage in inappropriate online behaviour towards students, staff or other parents may be referred to the Office of the e-Safety Commissioner and/or the Queensland Police Service. State school staff will be referred for investigation to the Integrity and Employee Relations team in the Department of Education.

# Mount Samson State School - Cyberbullying response flowchart for school staff

## How to manage online incidents that impact your school

### Student protection

If at any point the principal forms a reasonable suspicion that a student has been harmed or is at risk of harm, they have a responsibility to respond in accordance with the [Student protection procedure](#).

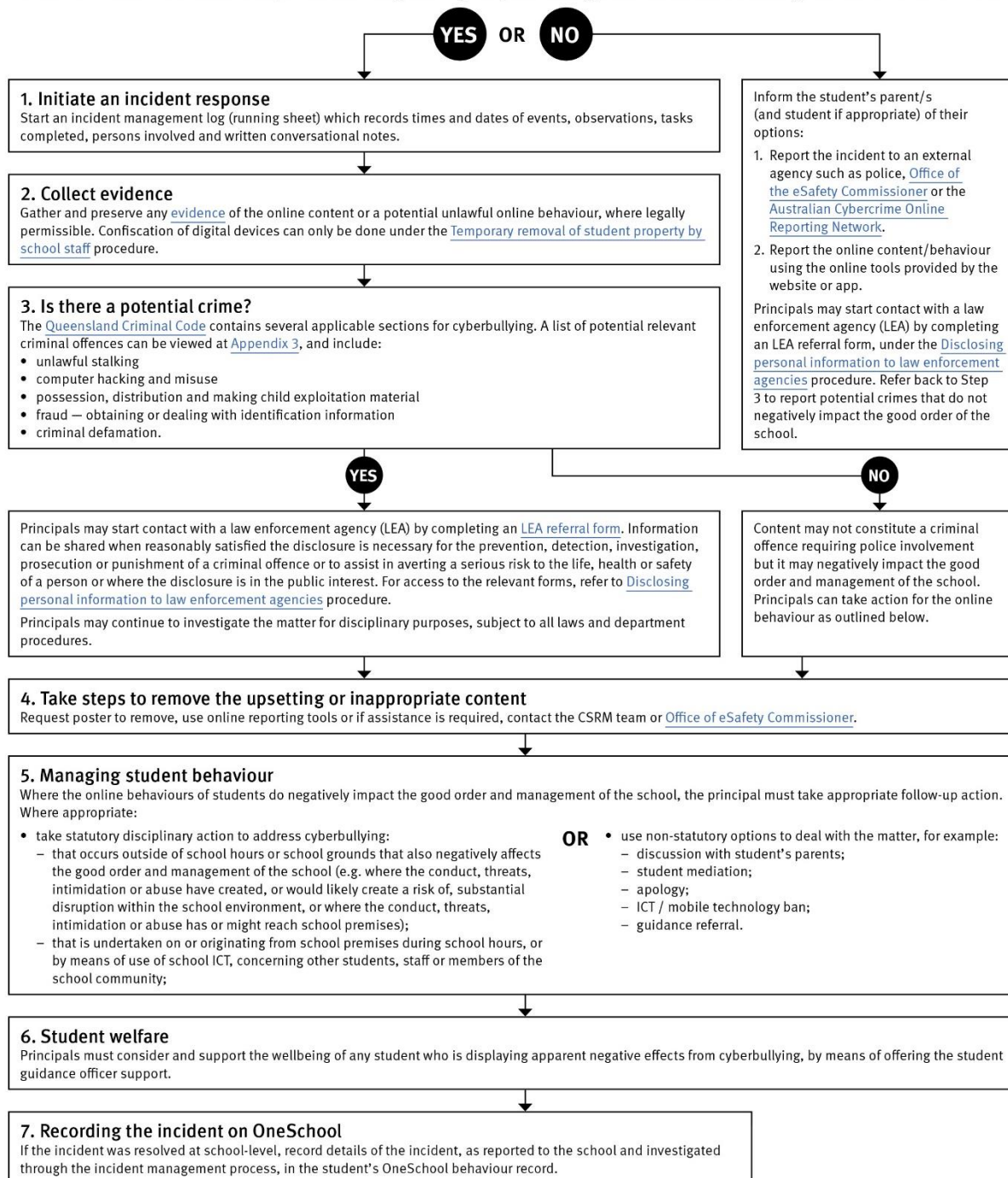
### Explicit images

If the investigation involves naked or explicit images of children, staff should not save, copy, forward or otherwise deal with the content, as per the [Temporary removal of student property by school staff procedure](#). This includes onto OneSchool records. Refer to the investigative process outlined in 'Responding to incidents involving naked or explicit images of children' from the [Online Incident management guidelines](#).

### Report

Refer to the [Online incident management guidelines](#) for more details, or if assistance is required, contact the Cybersafety and Reputation Management (CSRM) team on 3034 5035 or [Cybersafety.ReputationManagement@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:Cybersafety.ReputationManagement@qed.qld.gov.au).

Does the online behaviour/incident negatively impact the good order and management of the school?



## Cybersafety and Reputation Management (CRM)

The Department of Education employs a dedicated team of experts to assist in maintaining the integrity of the department's reputation with regards to cybersafety and reputation management issues, effectively leading the development and implementation of departmental cybersafety processes.

This team provides **direct support for schools** to respond to concerns of inappropriate online behaviour and misuse of information and communication technology.

The team provides a [guide for parents](http://behaviour.education.qld.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/cybersafety/cyberbullying-cybersafetyprintfriendlyguide.pdf) , (which can be found at <http://behaviour.education.qld.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/cybersafety/cyberbullying-cybersafetyprintfriendlyguide.pdf>) with important information about cybersafety and cyberbullying, and suggestions about what you can do if your child is a target or responsible for inappropriate online behaviour.

The team has also developed a [Cyberbullying and reputation management](#) (Department employees only) resource to assist principals in incident management.

For more information about cybersafety sessions at your school, or for assistance with issues relating to online behaviour, contact the [team](#) (Department employees only).

## Student Intervention and Support Services

Mount Samson State School recognises the need to provide intervention and support to all students involved in incidents of bullying, including cyberbullying.

Students who have been subject or witness to bullying have access to a range of internal support staff, as identified in the STAR Team section earlier in this document. Students are, however, also encouraged to approach any staff member with whom they feel comfortable sharing their concerns, regardless of their role in the school. All staff at Mount Samson State School are familiar with the response expectations to reports of bullying, and will act quickly to ensure students' concerns are addressed. Depending on the nature of the reported bullying incident, a formal plan of action may be developed and documented to support the implementation of strategies to assist the student.

Students who engage in bullying behaviours towards others will also be provided with support to assist them to use more socially acceptable and appropriate behaviours in their interactions. This includes counselling, social development programs, referral to mental health services or involvement in a restorative justice strategy. School disciplinary measures may also be used to reinforce the seriousness with which the community takes all incidents of bullying. These measures may include internal school suspension, withdrawal from social events or celebrations or more severe punishments such as suspension or exclusion from school.

## Appropriate use of social media

The internet, mobile phones and social media provide wonderful opportunities for students to network and socialise online. While these technologies provide

positive platforms for sharing ideas, they also have the potential to cause pain and suffering to individuals, groups or even whole communities.

It's important to remember that sometimes negative comments posted about the school community have a greater impact than expected. This guide offers some information about how to use social media in relation to comments or posts about the school community. Reputations of students, teachers, schools, principals and even parents can be permanently damaged — and in some cases, serious instances of inappropriate online behaviour are dealt with by police and the court system.

Being aware of a few simple strategies can help keep the use of social media positive and constructive:

- Before you post something online, ask yourself if the community or individual really need to know. Is it relevant, positive and helpful?
- Remember that what you post online is a direct reflection of who you are. People will potentially form lasting opinions of you based on what you post online.
- Be a good role model. If things get heated online consider logging out and taking a few moments to relax and think. Hasty, emotive responses could inflame situations unnecessarily.
- Be mindful when commenting, try to keep general and avoid posting anything that could identify individuals.
- A few years ago parents may have discussed concerns or issues with their friends at the school gate. Today with the use of social media, online discussions between you and your close friends can very quickly be shared with a much wider audience, potentially far larger than intended.
- Taking a few moments to think about the content you are about to post could save upset, embarrassment, and possible legal action.
- As a parent you have a role in supervising and regulating your child's online activities at home and its impact on the reputation and privacy of others. Parents are their child's first teachers — so they will learn online behaviours from you.

### **Is it appropriate to comment or post about schools, staff or students?**

Parental and community feedback is important for schools and the department. If you have a compliment, complaint or enquiry about an issue at school, the best approach is to speak directly to the school about the matter, rather than discussing it in a public forum.

While many schools use social media to update parents of school notices, the department prefers that parents contact schools directly with a compliment, complaint or enquiry due to privacy considerations. Imagine if your doctor, accountant or banking institution tried to contact you to discuss important matters via Facebook.

If you have raised an issue with a school or know that another person has, consider refraining from discussing those details on social media, particularly the names of anyone involved.

Keep comments calm and polite, just as you would over the telephone or by email. If you encounter negative or derogatory content online which involves the



school, hinders a child's learning and/or affects the school community at large, contact the school principal.

### **Possible civil or criminal ramifications of online commentary**

A serious instance of inappropriate online behaviour may constitute a criminal offence and become a police matter. For example, online content may substantiate the offence of 'using a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence' (Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth) s. 474.17). School staff may contact their union or obtain personal legal advice if they feel that online content seriously impacts their reputation. Defamatory online content may give rise to litigation under the Defamation Act 2005 (Qld).

### **What about other people's privacy?**

If you upload photos of your children, be mindful of who might be in the background. You might be happy to share your child's successes with your friends and family via social media, but some parents are not. If you are tagging or naming students, consider that other parents may not want their child's name attached to images online.

### **What if I encounter problem content?**

Taking the following steps may help resolve the issue in a constructive way:

- refrain from responding
- take a screen capture or print a copy of the concerning online content
- if you consider problem content to be explicit, pornographic or exploitative of minors, you should keep a record of the URL of the page containing that content but NOT print or share it. The URL can be provided to the school principal, or police, as needed for escalation of serious concerns
- block the offending user
- report the content to the social media provider.

## Restrictive Practices

School staff at Mount Samson State School need to respond to student behaviour that presents a risk of physical harm to the student themselves or others. It is anticipated that most instances of risky behaviour can be de-escalated and resolved quickly. On some rarer occasions, a student's behaviour may continue to escalate and staff need to engage immediately with positive and proactive strategies aimed at supporting the student to manage their emotional arousal and behaviour.

In some very rare situations, where there is immediate risk of physical harm to the student or other people, and when all other alternative strategies have failed to reduce the risk, it may be necessary for staff to use restrictive practices.

The use of restrictive practices will always be as a last resort, when there is no other available option for reducing immediate risk to the student, staff or other people. Restrictive practices are not used for punishment or as a disciplinary measure.

The department's **Restrictive practices procedure** is written with consideration for the protection of everyone's human rights, health, safety and welfare. There are six fundamental principles:

1. Regard to the human rights of those students
2. Safeguards students, staff and others from harm
3. Ensures transparency and accountability
4. Places importance on communication and consultation with parents and carers
5. Maximises the opportunity for positive outcomes, and
6. Aims to reduce or eliminate the use of restrictive practices.

Very rarely restrictive practices will be planned and staff will employ, when necessary, pre-arranged strategies and methods (of physical restraint/mechanical restraint/ clinical holding) which are based upon behaviour risk assessment or clinical health need and are recorded in advance. The use of planned strategies will only be where there is foreseeable immediate risk consistent with the **Restrictive practices procedure**.

Seclusion will not be used as a planned response and will only be used in serious circumstances for managing an unforeseeable situation in an emergency. It will be used for the shortest time possible and in a safe area that presents no additional foreseeable risk to the student. In such emergencies, a staff member will observe the student at all times and seclusion will cease as soon as possible.

Following the use of any restrictive practice, a focused review will help staff to understand how they responded to the risk in any incident that involved the use of a restrictive practice. Staff will consider whether there are other options for managing a similar situation in the future. This strategy works well for reducing the use of restrictive practices.

All incidents of restrictive practices will be recorded and reported in line with departmental procedures.

## Critical Incidents

It is important that all school staff have a consistent understanding of how to respond in emergencies involving student behaviour that seriously endangers the student or others. This consistency ensures that appropriate actions are taken to ensure that both students and staff are kept safe.

A critical incident is defined as an occurrence that is sudden, urgent, and usually unexpected, or an occasion requiring immediate action (e.g. in the community, on the road). The aim in these situations is to bring the behaviour of the student under rapid and safe control. It is not a time to try and to punish or discipline the student; it is a crisis management period only.

Staff should follow the documented plan for any student involved in regular critical incidents, which should be saved and available for staff to review in OneSchool.

For unexpected critical incidents, staff should use basic defusing techniques:

1. Avoid escalating the problem behaviour: Avoid shouting, cornering the student, moving into the student's space, touching or grabbing the student, sudden responses, sarcasm, becoming defensive, communicating anger and frustration through body language.
2. Maintain calmness, respect and detachment: Model the behaviour you want students to adopt, stay calm and controlled, use a serious measured tone, choose your language carefully, avoid humiliating the student, be matter of fact and avoid responding emotionally.
3. Approach the student in a non-threatening manner: Move slowly and deliberately toward the problem situation, speak privately to the student/s where possible, speak calmly and respectfully, minimise body language, keep a reasonable distance, establish eye level position, be brief, stay with the agenda, acknowledge cooperation, withdraw if the situation escalates.
4. Follow through: If the student starts displaying the appropriate behaviour briefly acknowledge their choice and re-direct other students' attention towards their usual work/activity. If the student continues with the problem behaviour, then remind them of the expected school behaviour and identify consequences of continued unacceptable behaviour.
5. Debrief: At an appropriate time when there is low risk of re-escalation, help the student to identify the sequence of events that led to the unacceptable behaviour, pinpoint decision moments during the sequence of events, evaluate decisions made, and identify acceptable decision options for future situations.

## Related Procedures and Guidelines

These are related procedures or guidelines which school staff use to inform decisions and actions around matters associated with students wellbeing, behaviour and learning.

- Cancellation of enrolment
- Complex case management
- Customer complaints management policy and procedure
- Disclosing personal information to law enforcement agencies
- Enrolment in state primary, secondary and special schools
- Hostile people on school premises, wilful disturbance and trespass
- Inclusive education
- Police and Child Safety Officer interviews and searches with students
- Restrictive practices
- Refusal to enrol – Risk to safety or wellbeing
- Student discipline
- Student dress code
- Student protection
- Supporting students' mental health and wellbeing
- Temporary removal of student property by school staff
- Use of ICT systems
- Using mobile devices

## Resources

- [Australian Professional Standards for Teachers](#)
- [Behaviour Foundations professional development package](#) (school employees only)
- [Bullying. No Way!](#)
- [eheadspace](#)
- [Kids Helpline](#)
- [Office of the eSafety Commissioner](#)
- [Parent and community engagement framework](#)
- [Parentline](#)
- [Queensland Department of Education School Discipline](#)
- [Raising Children Network](#)
- [Student Wellbeing Hub](#)

## Appendix 1: School-Wide Expectations Teaching Matrix

6 PILLARS	ALL AREAS	CLASSROOM	ONLINE	PLAYGROUND	TOILETS	BUS LINES/PICK UP
<b>TRUSTWORTHINESS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always follow rules.</li> <li>• Tell the truth.</li> <li>• Be honest.</li> <li>• Follow directions.</li> <li>• Wear your own jumper/hat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do your own work.</li> <li>• Only enter classroom if teacher is present/ permission given.</li> <li>• Use your own belongings.</li> <li>• Work independently.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only access recommended/permited sites/apps.</li> <li>• Teacher directed activities only.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return items to sports shed/lost property.</li> <li>• Keep toys at home.</li> <li>• Play in correct areas.</li> <li>• Follow the rules of games.</li> <li>• Obey school rules.</li> <li>• Stay in appropriate areas (not out of bounds).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the toilets appropriately.</li> <li>• Wash your hands.</li> <li>• Use reasonable amounts of toilet paper and soap.</li> <li>• Return to class promptly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the driver's instructions.</li> <li>• Listen to staff on duty.</li> <li>• Sit on the bus at all times.</li> <li>• Be at the bus waiting area on time.</li> </ul>
<b>RESPECT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen.</li> <li>• Take turns.</li> <li>• Keep personal space.</li> <li>• Follow directions.</li> <li>• Speak politely.</li> <li>• Ask permission.</li> <li>• Take care of school/own/others' property.</li> <li>• Be polite and use manners.</li> <li>• Wear uniform correctly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow class rules.</li> <li>• Use respectful language.</li> <li>• Keep noise to a minimum.</li> <li>• Allow others to learn.</li> <li>• Share.</li> <li>• Listening to others.</li> <li>• Pay attention.</li> <li>• Looking at teacher when you are speaking.</li> <li>• Be organised for learning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only post positive images and comments about myself and others.</li> <li>• Keep noise to a minimum (wear headphones).</li> <li>• Leave lab tidy.</li> <li>• Use equipment appropriately.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take turns.</li> <li>• Use polite language.</li> <li>• Play games on their rostered days (handball).</li> <li>• Look after school equipment.</li> <li>• Do not to interfere with other peoples' property/games.</li> <li>• Listen to teachers' directions.</li> <li>• Care for the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect others' privacy.</li> <li>• Wait your turn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank the driver.</li> <li>• Sit quietly.</li> <li>• Wait in line.</li> <li>• Follow instructions.</li> <li>• Use manners.</li> <li>• Listen to staff instructions.</li> <li>• Treat other school students as you wish to be treated.</li> </ul>
<b>FAIRNESS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen and let others have a go.</li> <li>• Follow rules.</li> <li>• Share equipment.</li> <li>• Take/wait your turn</li> <li>• Be inclusive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take turns.</li> <li>• Put hand up to answer/share.</li> <li>• Allow others to learn/work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take turns using technology/computers.</li> <li>• Keep user names and passwords private.</li> <li>• Wait your turn if you need help from adult.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take turns.</li> <li>• Share equipment.</li> <li>• Follow rules.</li> <li>• Make fair teams.</li> <li>• Accept the umpire/referee's decision.</li> <li>• Include others.</li> <li>• Problem solve.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flush.</li> <li>• Wait your turn.</li> <li>• Toilets are for everyone, leave it clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wait your turn to get on the bus.</li> <li>• Be ready for the car picking you up.</li> <li>• Line up.</li> <li>• Keep noise down.</li> </ul>

<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look after own and others property.</li> <li>• Take turns.</li> <li>• Follow rules.</li> <li>• Share equipment.</li> <li>• Walk on concrete.</li> <li>• Organise resources.</li> <li>• Be proactive - a good role model.</li> <li>• Use stairs appropriately.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be prepared for class.</li> <li>• Do your best work.</li> <li>• Be on time.</li> <li>• Follow instructions</li> <li>• Hand in homework.</li> <li>• Return library books / home readers.</li> <li>• Look after own and others' belongings.</li> <li>• Empty bins.</li> <li>• Take ownership of behaviour, learning and property.</li> <li>• Put away belongings and other equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report inappropriate content/online behaviour.</li> <li>• Stay on task.</li> <li>• Keep personal info private.</li> <li>• Log off.</li> <li>• Leave lab tidy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return equipment to sports shed.</li> <li>• Come to class on time.</li> <li>• Clean up after yourself (rubbish/spills)</li> <li>• Look after own/others' belongings.</li> <li>• Use bins appropriately.</li> <li>• Fulfil commitments e.g. choir, sports shed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash hands.</li> <li>• Use toilets for their intended purpose.</li> <li>• Flush toilet.</li> <li>• Report any problems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be on time.</li> <li>• Follow directions.</li> <li>• Follow rules.</li> <li>• Behave as you are expected to at school.</li> <li>• Look after belongings.</li> <li>• Stay in the pick-up area.</li> </ul>
<b>CARING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include others.</li> <li>• Help others.</li> <li>• Encourage others.</li> <li>• Use polite, respectful language.</li> <li>• Speak and act kindly.</li> <li>• Be thoughtful of others.</li> <li>• Consider the environment.</li> <li>• Respect own/others' belongings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share and encourage others.</li> <li>• Look after own/others' belongings.</li> <li>• Care for others how you would like to be cared for.</li> <li>• Help others.</li> <li>• Use manners and wait your turn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post encouraging comments online.</li> <li>• Be positive when interacting with others.</li> <li>• Help others where required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help others who are sad, lost or hurt.</li> <li>• Invite others to play.</li> <li>• Look after self/others.</li> <li>• Bullying-free zone.</li> <li>• Ask others for help.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report any problems.</li> <li>• Do not waste water/soap/toilet paper.</li> <li>• Turn off taps.</li> <li>• Keep toilets clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help younger students.</li> <li>• Speak politely.</li> </ul>
<b>CITIZENSHIP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to the wellbeing of our school community and environment.</li> <li>• Report any problems with facilities/equipment.</li> <li>• Wear uniform with pride.</li> <li>• Be proud of our school.</li> <li>• Volunteer to help.</li> <li>• Keep the school clean and tidy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to school and class tasks/routines/jobs.</li> <li>• Support all contributions.</li> <li>• Have a go.</li> <li>• Be an active learner.</li> <li>• Look after classroom.</li> <li>• Tidy room.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report items of concern or unsafe behaviour.</li> <li>• Post appropriate content.</li> <li>• Be aware that what goes online stays online.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave the eating area clean.</li> <li>• Pick up rubbish,</li> <li>• Return equipment and report if broken.</li> <li>• Wear your hat outside.</li> <li>• Report inappropriate behaviours.</li> <li>• Involve others who may need a friend.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the toilet area clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use manners and show appropriate behaviours.</li> <li>• Have bus pass ready and belongings nearby.</li> <li>• Set a good example for others.</li> <li>• Model the 6 pillars when outside of the school.</li> </ul>