

Student Behaviour Policy

At Melonba High School, students are known, valued and cared for. Students need to understand that their actions and words will have an impact on the learning and wellbeing of others. Students are expected to be respectful and supportive of one another, the staff and of the community. Students will be supported to RISE to become the best version of themselves.



Behaviour code for students- NSW Public Schools

Information for students and parents or carers

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone across a range of settings. We teach and model the inclusive and safe behaviours we value in our students <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2006-0316>

In NSW Schools students are expected, to the best of their ability, to:

- show respect to other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- strive for the highest standards in learning
- act in a courteous and respectful way that makes all members of the school community feel valued, included and supported
- resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- meet the school's agreed uniform policy or dress code
- attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- respect all property
- be safe and not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, vapes, e-cigarettes or tobacco into our schools
- not bully, harass, intimidate, or discriminate against anyone in our schools.

Schools take action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high-quality teaching and learning.

All students have a right to:

- safety at school
- access and fully participate in their learning
- be treated with respect by other students, teachers and school staff
- respectfully express their views, set goals and self-advocate.

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments and apply an appropriate action when students are not meeting these expectations. The department is responsible for the provision of a policy framework and resources such as legal issues bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment. In this context, the NSW Government and the Department of Education will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.

At Melonba High School

Melonba High School is committed to creating engaging and effective classrooms, as well as inclusive and safe environments for our students. Students and staff have the right and responsibility to engage in positive and respectful relationships based on valuing the interests, abilities, and diversity of others. All students and staff have the right to be treated fairly and with dignity in an environment free from intimidation, harassment, victimisation, discrimination, and continued disruption.

We make every effort to provide an environment in which the student feels valued and are equipped to make meaningful contributions to the school. Students should get to know each other, learn about, and discuss age-appropriate issues, develop positive character traits, and foster positive relationships with each other, the staff and the community. Successful management of student learning and behaviour is underpinned by the fostering of positive relationships between all stakeholders - staff to staff, staff to students, students to students. The school's Behaviour Policy underpins the Department of Education's Care Continuum.

Care Continuum	Strategy or Program	Details	Audience
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop and foster positive relationshipsDevelop preventative strategies to maintain safe, respectful learning environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School's merit systemStudent voice and leadershipSchool programs and initiativesRoutines, Redirection to encourage positive behaviourExpectationsDifferentiation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students, Staff, Parents, Community
Early Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Positive Proactive Teacher strategiesInitial responses and approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Guidelines and classroom rulesPrograms of supportRestorative conversationsPositive behaviour support initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students, staff, parents
Targeted Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Positive Proactive Teacher strategiesTargeted support strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Restorative ConversationsPrograms of supportLearning and Support intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students, Staff, Parents, DOE support
Individual Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Positive Proactive Teacher strategiesComprehensive systems of support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Individual student programsRestorative conversations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All stakeholders

Behaviour code for students: Student actions

Promoting the inclusion, learning, wellbeing, and safety of all students in NSW public schools is a high priority for the Department of Education. We implement teaching and learning approaches across a range of settings to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

To meet the expectations set out above, students in NSW public schools, to the best of their ability, should adhere to the following principles.

Respect

- Treat one another with dignity.
- Communicate and behave courteously.
- Act and work cooperatively with other students, teachers, and school staff.
- Develop positive and respectful relationships.
- Value the interests, ability and culture of others.
- Respect the learning needs of other students.
- Dress appropriately by wearing the agreed school uniform or dress code.
- Take care with school property and the property of staff and other students.

Safety

- Model and follow school and class rules and expectations around behaviour and conduct.
- Negotiate and peacefully resolve conflict.
- Be aware of and take responsibility for how their behaviour and actions impact others.
- Care for self and others.
- Be safe and help others to make safe choices that do not hurt themselves or others.

Engagement

- Arrive at school and class on time.
- Be prepared for every lesson.
- Actively participate in learning.
- Strive to achieve the highest standards of learning.

Classroom Expectations

START OF PERIOD

Students are expected to attend all classes on time. Students must utilise break times to eat, drink and use the amenities. Students must line up quietly outside the classroom with the equipment needed for class. Students enter the room and stand behind their chairs and wait for teacher welcome and instruction. If students need to leave the classroom at any time, they must have a note issued by their teacher. Alternately, any lateness to class must also be accompanied by a late note with the teacher's signature and time indicated on the note.

Behaviour that disrupts learning

Step 1- The student is asked to stop the negative behaviour

Step 2- If disruptive behaviour continues, the teacher may utilise strategies to redirect the behaviour.

Step 3- If disruptive behaviour persists, the teacher may issue consequences to redirect negative behaviour to support a positive teaching and learning environment. A restorative conversation may be held. Parent/carer contact may occur.

Step 4- If disruptive behaviour continues, the matter will be referred to the Head Teacher and parent/carer contact. A restorative conversation will be held.

Step 5- Ongoing behaviour that poses an unacceptable risk to health and safety, learning and/or the wellbeing of any person may warrant intervention, restorative conversations, redirections Formal Cautions and/or a Suspension.

Restorative Practice Principles

Restorative practice is a whole school teaching and learning approach that encourages behaviour that is supportive and respectful. It puts the onus on individuals to be truly accountable for their behaviour and to repair any harm caused to others because of their actions. The use of restorative practices at Melonba High School aims to resolve conflict by prioritising the repairing of harm done to people and their relationships. It is about helping students become aware of the impact of their behaviour on others through personal accountability and being open to learning from conflict situations.

Restorative Practice Reflection Questions:

1. What happened?
2. Who was hurt or affected?
3. What do you think needs to happen to make things right?
4. What would you do differently next time?



Dealing with serious behavioural issues

There will be cases of unacceptable behaviour where a student may need to be removed from the school for a period of time. Suspension is an action available to the principal in these situations.

The purpose of the suspension is to allow the school to implement appropriate supports during the student's absence to address the student's complex and challenging behaviour or behaviours. This is to ensure a successful return to school, and mitigate any unacceptable risks posed to teaching and learning, and the health, safety and wellbeing of staff and/or students.

Principals can use suspension as a behaviour management intervention when a behaviour or behaviours of concern pose an unacceptable risk to others or to teaching and learning. When assessing grounds for suspension, principals should consider the diverse learning and wellbeing needs of students, including developmental age, trauma, child protection concerns, cultural considerations, disability and individual needs and circumstances.

Principals can suspend a student engaging in behaviour or behaviours of concern on grounds that could include but are not limited to:

- continued/persistent disobedience and/or disruptive behaviour
- malicious damage to or theft of property
- verbal abuse
- bullying and cyberbullying
- misuse of technology

- discrimination, including that based on sex, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Due to the immediate and/or significant risk of harm to students or staff, it is important principals consider issuing an immediate suspension to any student who engages in serious behaviour or behaviours of concern that could include but are not limited to:

- being in possession of, uses or supplies tobacco, vaping devices, alcohol and e-cigarettes
- being in possession of, uses or supplies a suspected illegal/restricted substance
- being in possession of, or using weapons including knives (excluding Kirpans, in line with guidance set out in Legal Issues Bulletin 22 – Knives in schools) and firearms
- using an implement as a weapon
- seriously threatening or engaging in physically violent behaviour
- engaging in serious criminal behaviour related to the school
- engaging in sexual harassment, sexual assault or other sexualised behaviour that may pose a risk of or has caused physical, psychological or emotional harm to others.

Associated School Rules

Rules and procedures are necessary for the safety and wellbeing of students and staff. Students who - do not meet our expectations will be issued consequences that may lead to Formal Cautions or Suspensions.

Students are expected to:

- Act with safety in and around the school including all school activities
- Be respectful and follow requests from Staff and others in positions of authority
- Adhere to school policy – uniform, behaviour, phones, attendance, use of technology
- Maintain an excellent standard of behaviour in the classroom, playground, while travelling to and from school, on excursions, at sporting events and activities
- Complete assigned classwork, homework and assessments on time
- Be punctual to class and other timetabled activities
- Maintain positive and respectful relationships with students, staff and the community
- Treat the school and local environment respectfully

Behaviours of Concern

Prohibited and Banned Items

- Knives and weapons
- Imitation or replica of any firearm
- Alcohol, Tobacco and vaping devices, e-cigarettes
- Cigarette lighters, matches
- Illegal/restricted substance and related Apparatus
- Pornographic material
- Metal rulers (student supplied)
- Chewing or bubble gum
- Aerosol items and sprays
- Permanent markers

Bringing prohibited illegal items to school may result in a suspension and a report to the police. Some items – knives, weapons - are totally prohibited on school premises. Additionally, any student who is found to be using, distributing, or possessing illegal/restricted substances, tobacco, vaping devices, e-cigarettes or alcohol will be suspended according to Department of Education Suspension and expulsion procedures/policy, as these items are prohibited.

Truancy

Students are expected to attend all classes every day. Truancy will not be tolerated at Melonba High School. It is a breach of trust, and it is dangerous, putting the student at risk. If a student is truanting, the school cannot guarantee that student's safety. Consequences will apply and parent/caregiver contact will be made.

Lateness

Arriving to school on time is vital to establishing positive routines. Lateness to school is partial absence and must be explained with a parental/caregiver note, handed in to the front office at the time of lateness. Habitual or unexplained lateness will result in parent/caregiver contact and proactive behaviour support strategies.

In exceptional circumstances, students who are late to class, must have an accompanying note from a teacher or staff member explaining the lateness. If students do not have a note, then the lateness may be treated or regarded as partial truancy. The note must be signed and dated by the staff member. Students who truant classes or school will receive consequences and their parents/carers will be notified. Ongoing truancy may result in a Formal Caution and/or Suspension.

Leaving Early

Students may not leave early unless they have a signed parental/caregiver note and this has been presented to the front office before school. Parents/caregivers must give an acceptable reason for signing the student out of school. Students may only be signed out by a parent/caregiver. The person must come to the front office and sign the student out in person. Students are not allowed to leave the school grounds on any day without following these procedures.

Gambling

Gambling is not permitted at school. Gambling is illegal for people under the age of 18. It will not be tolerated in any fashion at Melonba High School. This includes any form of betting or punting.

Personal Vilification and Bullying

It is unacceptable for a student to tease, ridicule or ostracise another person because of their physical appearance, colour, ethnicity, religion, gender identification, sexual orientation or racial background. Bullying is taken very seriously and will not be tolerated. Bullying devalues, isolates, frightens and affects an individuals' ability to achieve. It has long term effects on those who bully, are subject to bullying or for those who remain as passive bystanders.

Offensive Language

The use of offensive language directed towards Staff, students or the community is not permitted. This includes but is not limited to swearing, sexist and racist comments, put-downs and intimidation and false accusations. This includes offensive words in any language.

Physical Contact

Melonba High School is a no physical contact school where personal boundaries need to be respected at all times. Physical contact between students other than in the course of a supervised sporting or classroom activity is not permitted. This includes holding hands, kissing, sitting on laps, hitting, dangerous play or contact, pushing or punching.

Anti-social behaviour

We expect all students to behave in a way that promotes a safe, respectful and inclusive environment. It is not acceptable for students to engage in anti-social behaviour such as:

- Inciting, running to a fight
- Filming or recording of any kind without staff permission
- Threatening behaviour
- Spreading rumours
- Stealing and vandalism.

Damaging and Defacing Property

Students must take pride in their school community. They must not litter or deface school or the property of others. Students who wilfully deface property may be required to pay for damages. Consequences as outlined in the Department of Education Behaviour Policy, will be issued.

Misbehaviour on Camps, Excursions and Sporting Events

Students must follow the Behaviour Code as outlined in the school and Department of Education Policy. Students who purposely and wilfully misbehave may have consequences given and could be issued with alternate arrangements in future. Students are expected to follow school policy and procedures when engaging in activities outside the school environment.

Successful engagement in the Melonba High School Behaviour Policy will allow students to Connect, Succeed and Thrive in an environment where students are recognised, respected and valued.