



## CATHERINE MCAULEY CATHOLIC COLLEGE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT POLICY

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| <b>APPLICABLE TO</b>     | Staff, students and parents  |
| <b>DOCUMENT OWNER</b>    | Principal – Scott Donohoe  |
| <b>APPROVAL DATE</b>     | Term 1 2021  |
| <b>APPROVED BY</b>       | Senior Executive   |
| <b>SCHOOL ACTIONS</b>    | School Policy – Staff are to ensure practices are consistent with this policy. |
| <b>LAST REVIEW DATE</b>  | New Policy   |
| <b>NEXT REVIEW DATE</b>  | 12 months from approval date   |
| <b>RELATED DOCUMENTS</b> | TBA  |

### Purpose

Corporal punishment was banned in government schools in NSW pursuant to the Education Act 1990 (NSW). An amendment to the Act (the Education Discipline Act 1995, which came into effect in 1997) extended the ban on corporal punishment to non-government schools. As such, corporal punishment is strictly prohibited at Catherine McAuley Catholic College.

### Aims

- Provide a safe environment for students.
- Promote a commitment to resolving differences through non-physical ways, such as restorative justice.
- Give meaning and expression to the College's commitment to the Mercy values of hospitality, courage, faith in action and compassion.

### Scope

This policy applies to all staff, with an expectation of full support from all staff, students and parents.

### Definition

Corporal punishment is defined as the use of physical force towards a child for the purpose of control and/or correction, and as a disciplinary penalty inflicted on the body with the intention of causing some degree of pain or discomfort, however mild. Punishment of this nature is referred to in several ways, for example: hitting, smacking, spanking, and belting (Cashmore & de Haas, 1995). Although most forms of corporal punishment involve hitting children with a hand or an implement (such as a belt or wooden spoon), other forms of



corporal punishment include: kicking, shaking, biting and forcing a child to stay in uncomfortable positions (United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2006).

## **EDUCATION DISCIPLINE ACT 1995**

The following are a summary of the Education Discipline Act 1995:

- Corporal punishment does not include the use of force to prevent a student from injuring persons (including the student) or damaging or destroying property.
- Schools must not permit corporal punishment of students. The amendment also makes it clear that the guidelines and codes may permit other reasonable forms of punishment or correction of those students, including requiring students to perform any reasonable work or service for the school.
- It is a registration requirement for non-government schools that any official school policy relating to student discipline does not permit corporal punishment of students in the school.

## **Implementation**

College Policies do not permit corporal punishment of students. The College does not explicitly or implicitly sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-College persons, including parents, to enforce discipline at the College.

## **Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed one year after its implementation date and then every three years or as the need arises. It is the responsibility of the College Leadership Team to implement such reviews and to update this policy when necessary.