



DARAMALAN COLLEGE

'HANDS OFF' POLICY

Related Policies

Pastoral Care Framework

Anti-Harassment Policy

Rationale

All students have the right to come to school to learn and to feel safe. When this is not the case, they have the right to inform staff and expect the school to help them. Students are expected to behave in a mature, responsible and respectful manner towards one another. Consequences will be applied if student behaviour does not meet these standards.

While it is acknowledged that relationships will develop between students, it is not appropriate to display physical affection while at school.

Policy

The school is a professional workplace and physical contact between students should not take place. This **'Hands Off' Policy** means that **no one is to put hands on another person.**

Procedures

Pastoral Leaders will examine the circumstances of an incident so that consequences are fair and just. This process will provide an opportunity for the students involved to reflect and behave more appropriately in the future. When possible, a restorative practice approach will be used when dealing with breaches of this policy.

1. Physical Aggression

- Students involved in a fight or physically aggressive behaviour will be required to state their account of what happened. This information will be passed on to the Pastoral Leader. There will be a discussion with those involved about options available to help modify behaviours. All students will be offered support through Pastoral Leaders, school counsellors, or Assistant Principals. (This will occur throughout any of the steps below).
- Follow up interviews will be conducted by the Pastoral Leaders to check on the students progress and how the students are coping.
- Students will follow the Behaviour Support requirements as set down in the Pastoral Care Framework.

- The Parents of a student involved in a fight or physically aggressive behaviour will be contacted as soon as possible and practicable.

2. Other Physical Contacts

- Students who display physical affection at school or during school events will be advised that such contact is both inappropriate and unacceptable and is to cease immediately.
- Students playing physical games with each other such as wrestling, pushing etc at school or during school events will be advised that such behaviour is dangerous and unacceptable and is to cease immediately.
- If a student repeatedly breaches the 'Hands Off' Policy, the student will be required to attend individual interviews and counselling with their Pastoral Leader.
- Should the inappropriate behaviour continue, parents will be informed and students may be put on Level 1 Behaviour Support. (See Pastoral Care Framework)

Guidelines for Consequences for Aggressive Behaviour

- Students who intentionally cause serious harm will immediately be put on a Behaviour Support Level as outlined in the Pastoral Care Framework and may at the discretion of the Principal have their enrolment withdrawn.
- A student who is the instigator of the aggression/fight may be suspended and will be put on a Behaviour Support Level. The student's parents will be informed and a re-entry meeting with a Pastoral Leader or Assistant Principal will take place before the student returns to school. The student will be offered the opportunity to have counselling.
- The second offence by a student may lead to a further suspension. The student may be put on **Probation**. The student will not be allowed to return to school until parents participate in an interview with the Principal, and/or Assistant Principal Pastoral Care and/or their Pastoral Leader. A condition for a return to school may be to undertake counselling.
- The next offence by this student may result in the student's enrolment being withdrawn.
- A student who acts in any way to exacerbate, incite or actively encourage a negative situation or poor behaviour will be treated as an instigator. They may then come under the initial consequences listed above.
- Students standing by or cheering the fight along will also be deemed to be a contributor. These students may also receive consequences as is appropriate to the situation.
- A person who films/records a fight will be deemed to be a contributor and will incur the initial consequences listed above.

Approved by:	College Executive
Contact Staff Member:	Assistant Principals Pastoral Care
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