

# Policy on Expulsion



"Live as free people"

## St Peter's Community School

Approved November 2017

## **Expulsions**

The Board of Management of St Peter's Community School may if necessary make a decision to permanently exclude a student from school.

### **Grounds for Expulsion**

The Board of Management may expel a student when all other sanctions and interventions have failed. A student can be expelled for a single grave offence. In all cases of expulsion due process and fair procedures will be followed by the Board of Management. The decision to expel a student is a very serious step and will only be taken in extreme cases of misbehaviour such as:

- Persistent and significant disruption of teaching and learning in the school.
- Where the student's behaviour adversely affects the education and or well being of other student(s).
- Where a student poses a threat to safety
- Where a student causes damage to property
- Violence or physical assault
- Supplying illegal drugs to other students
- Sexual assault and/or harassment

### **Procedures for Expulsion**

1. The student and parents are informed about the unacceptable behaviour, the investigation into the behaviour and how this behaviour could result in expulsion.
2. The misbehaviour is investigated under the direction of the Principal and a report prepared.
3. The student and parents are given an opportunity to come to the school and respond to the complaint of serious misbehaviour. If a student and their parents fail to attend a meeting, the Principal will write advising of the gravity of the matter and the duty of the school authorities to make a decision to respond to the misbehaviour.
4. Following the investigation and the meeting with the student and their parents the Principal can decide to make a recommendation to the Board of Management to consider expulsion. The Principal will then:
  - Inform the parents that the Board of Management is being asked to consider expulsion and invite the parents to a hearing by the Board.
  - Advise the parents that they can make a written or oral submission to the Board of Management and give adequate time for the preparation of any submission.
  - Ensure that the parents and the Board of Management have all relevant information, records and reports.
5. The Board will review all documentation and procedures and hold a hearing. At the hearing the Principal and the parents will put their case to the Board. The principal and the parents can question the evidence of each other. The parents can make their case for reviewing or lessening the sanction.
6. The Board having considered all the evidence will decide whether or not expulsion is the appropriate sanction.
7. If the Board is of the opinion that the student should be expelled, the Education Welfare Officer will be informed in writing of its opinion and the reasons for this opinion. The Board will implement the decision to expel twenty days after the EWO receives the written opinion of the Board. The parents will also be advised in writing of the Board's decisions and communication with the EWO.
8. The Principal will meet with the EWO as necessary to consult over the future education of the student. The Board may consider the suspension of the student if necessary at this time.
9. At the end of the twenty-day period following the notification to the EWO and where the Board remains of the view that the student should be expelled, the Board will confirm the decision to expel and notify the parents and the EWO. Parents and the student will be told about their right to appeal.
10. A parent or a student over eighteen may appeal a decision to expel to the DES or an appeal may be brought by the NEWB on behalf of the student.

### **Review of Policy on Expulsion**

This policy on expulsion will be reviewed as necessary by the Board of Management.