

Policy on Suspension



"Live as free people"

St Peter's Community School

Approved November 2017

Suspension

The Board of Management delegates the immediate power to suspend pupils to the Principal (Deputy Principal in his/her absence). A student can be suspended when other sanctions/interventions have failed or for serious misconduct. Some reasons for a suspension include:

- Persistent misbehaviour
- A serious incident of misbehaviour
- Serious damage to property
- Where a student poses a threat to safety
- Where a student's behaviour has a continuing detrimental effect on the education of other students

In some circumstances it may be necessary to impose an immediate suspension. A student may also be suspended for misconduct during state examinations.

Periods of Suspension

A student will normally be suspended for one, two or three days however, in certain circumstances it may be necessary to impose a five day suspension.

For suspension periods in excess of five days, the Principal will consult with the Chairperson of the Board or if necessary with the Board of Management before any decision to suspend for such a period.

Procedures for Suspension

1. Student and parent(s) are informed about the complaint leading to a possible suspension.
2. The complaint is investigated (where possible the matter will be investigated by the Class Teacher/Year Head/Deputy Principal and a report given to the Principal).
3. The student and parent(s) are given an opportunity to come to the school and give their side of the story. If a student and his/her parent(s) fail to attend a meeting(s) a suspension may still be imposed.
4. Following a decision to suspend, a letter detailing the reason for the suspension, the duration of the suspension and the right of appeal to the Board of Management/DES will be given to the parent(s).
5. Following a period of suspension a student is given a fresh start and treated the same as any other student.

Appeals

The Principal's decision to suspend a student may be appealed to the Board of Management and a decision of the Board to suspend may be appealed to the DES. Where the total number of days for which a student has been suspended reaches twenty days in any one school year students and parent(s) will be told about their right to appeal and given information how to appeal to the DES.

The Board of Management or the DES, if appropriate, may remove a suspension.

Review of Policy on Suspension

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