

Taylors Lakes Secondary College

Student Behaviour Expectations Information



Taylors Lakes
SECONDARY COLLEGE

17 May 2021,

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

As we have returned to onsite learning in 2021, the school's commitment to continue in delivering high outcomes in student achievement as well as closing the gap in learning that was lost last year due to the pandemic is very much evident. We have seen greater differentiation in curriculum design and instruction to support student learning as well as an additional focus in student wellbeing and student attendance. The reinforcing nature of achievement, engagement and wellbeing outcomes is at the heart of the College's work and the school is continuing to emphasise to all students the importance of being ready to learn in all of their lessons.

Along with a focus in student achievement and students being ready to learn, we have felt the importance of restating our College values of Respect, Commitment and Safety and expectations in student behaviour to all students. This is no different to what many other schools across the education system are also undertaking in 2021. This communication follows student year level assemblies on 17 May 2021, whereby the College has addressed these expected behaviours with all students. We feel it is necessary that all parents/carers and students are clear with the College's expectation in student behaviour, including any consequences that students will receive if any of these expected behaviours are deemed to have been breached.

Our College values are an important aspect of the school. The College's values continue to be summarised by the 3 words: Respect, Commitment and Safety with each of them defined below:

- **Respect:** We show **respect** and value diversity through the way we communicate and empathise with each other. We care for our college community and learning environments.
- **Commitment:** We show **commitment** to our academic, social and emotional growth. We strive to achieve our personal best and support others to do the same.
- **Safety:** We acknowledge everyone's right to feel **safe** at school. We promote physical, emotional and intellectual safety and encourage everyone to take responsible risks in their learning.

Our focus is always centred around the belief that every student must have the right to learn and feel safe at school. All students, together with their teachers, have a responsibility to ensure this occurs. In addition to this, every teacher and other school staff have the right to come into their workplace and not feel threatened and/or intimidated by students or parents/carers. We have witnessed that too many of our staff this year are having to direct too much of their time with matters relating to student expected behaviours clearly not met by some students. This has been seen both in the classroom and in the yard, only to then have any consequence issued questioned by some parents/carers. This also has a negative effect on students who are ready to learn in every lesson, lose valuable learning time, and may even begin to feel unsafe in the yard, due to some of their classmates misbehaving. This behaviour is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated by the school.

We ask for your cooperation in working with the school to ensure we can continue to maintain a safe and productive learning environment for all members of the college community, including yourself and your own child. We need to be clear that student behaviours identified in this document will be responded to as outlined. We have listed some of the student behaviours that we have been currently dealing with. We remind all students and parents/carers that any consequences issued as a result cannot be disputed. Any incident is followed up with due diligence and investigated thoroughly. Student support group meetings will continue to be

held, where necessary, to seek any further clarification on any matters identified or strategies to support the student with being ready to learn. We understand that you may not always agree with the decision and/or consequence provided by the school, however, we ask that you respect that this is a College decision and trust that we have you and your child's best interest always in mind. Young people may at times make a wrong decision. Whilst a consequence may be issued, a restorative conversation is also held and this is an important learning opportunity for a young person.

Some Common Behaviours and Consequences:

(a) Use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), commonly known as 'vaping'

In Victoria it is illegal for any person aged 18 or over to obtain, possess or use nicotine e-cigarettes, or e-cigarette cartridges containing nicotine, or nicotine liquids for use in a vaporiser, without a prescription. It is illegal to sell e-cigarettes to, or buy e-cigarettes for, any person aged under 18 years whether or not the e-cigarettes contain nicotine. It is unlawful to use them on school premises or within 4 metres of a school entrance.

Consequence: Any student who is caught with electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) will receive a one-day suspension at a minimum. Any student caught selling or buying e-cigarettes will receive multiple days of suspension.

(b) Physical bullying at school:

Physical bullying includes hitting, pushing, shoving or intimidating or otherwise physically hurting another person, damaging or stealing their belongings. It includes threats of violence.

Consequence: Any student who is involved in a school fight (physical bullying) will be sent home for the remainder of the day whilst the incident is investigated. Parents/carers will be contacted to collect the student. Students at fault will be issued with a suspension.

(c) Disruptive behaviour in the classroom:

All students are responsible to follow school expected behaviours in the classroom and help maintain a classroom environment that is safe and supportive, including valuing diversity and pro-social behaviours.

Consequence: Any student who displays disruptive behaviour in the classroom will be dealt with by the teacher through the following process:

- 1. Issuing a warning (verbally or by placing the student's name on the board)*
- 2. Moving the student to another seat/location in the classroom*
- 3. Asking the student to stand outside of the classroom for up to 5 minutes where they will speak to the student, re-state expectations for the remainder of the lesson and invite them to return*
- 4. If the student continues to be disruptive, they will be 'exited' from the lesson, meaning the student will leave the class with their books and report to the Student Support Centre or a member of the Principal Class. A consequence will be issued (eg detention) and the student will not be able return to class until there has been a re-entry meeting with the teacher.*

(d) Consistent disruptive behaviour in the classroom:

This includes student incidents over many lessons the Sub-school team has been involved in, including re-entry meetings with one or more teachers, and the student misbehaviour continues.

Consequence: Any student who displays consistent disruptive behaviour in the classroom will be unable to return to school until a parent meeting has occurred onsite with a member of the Sub-School (Year Level Leader or Sub-School Leader) or an Assistant Principal. If the disruptive behaviour continues, the student will be suspended.

(e) Refusal to follow an instruction from multiple staff members:

Although very rare, this includes school expected behaviours not met from the student and refusal to follow instructions from multiple staff members when addressing the issue, indicating that they are not ready to learn.

Consequence: Any student who refuses to follow an instruction from multiple staff members will be sent home by a member of the Principal Class if they are unwilling to cooperate with expected behaviours outlined by the school. A subsequent parent meeting will be held before returning onsite (where appropriate).

(f) Verbal bullying towards a staff member:

Verbal bullying includes swearing, name-calling, or insulting/harassing someone or making derogatory comments about an attribute, quality or personal characteristic.

Consequence: Any student who is making verbal bullying comments aimed at a staff member will be suspended.

Please note: A suspension length is decided on by the College Principal.

In addition to the behaviours outlined above, students and parents/carers should note that the College Uniform Policy and Student Mobile Phone Policy must be adhered to at all times. We are a full uniform school. Hooded jumpers are not accepted and should never be worn; they will be confiscated and returned to students at the end of the day. Tracksuit pants should also not be worn. Students out of uniform will receive a lunchtime detention if their item deemed out of uniform has not been approved. Please refer to the College's expectation in regards to uniform. We also have a Student Mobile Phone Policy in line with departmental guidelines just like every other school in Victoria. This means that any mobile phones brought to school from any student must remain in the student locker from 8.50am – 3.04pm and must not be used during the day. This includes parents/carers communicating with their child/ren during breaks. Any mobile phone seen on the student during school hours, regardless if they are using it or not, will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.

A big thank you to all students across all year levels who follow the College's student expected behaviours each day. We are very proud to have a very high number of students who continually model this every day. Thank you to the parents/carers who do follow up with their child/ren and support the school in the decisions that we make. We ask all parents/carers to please respect and support College procedures and policies we have in place. Our policies are available on our Compass Management system.

We have attached a Student Behaviour Matrix that clearly outlines the expected behaviours from all of students at Taylors Lakes Secondary College. This matrix is also clearly displayed in each classroom. On Monday, 17 May 2021 we have also readdressed our expectations with all students through each year level assembly. If you have any questions or need any further clarifications, feel free to contact a principal class member on 9390 3130 during school hours.

Thanking you in support,

Danny Dedes

On Behalf of the Principal Class Team

(Theresa Burlak, Rick Hudson, Sasha Mildenhall and Louisa Norwood)