



28th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Lithgow High School is committed to supporting the learning and wellbeing of every student. Behaviour support is critical to promoting engaging and effective classrooms and lifting student performance.

During the recent school holidays the NSW Government and the NSW Department of Education made numerous announcements about NSW Public Schools; the appointment of a Behaviour Specialist Advisor, the employment of up to 200 Behavioural Specialists, the possibility of banning mobile phones in high schools, and the implementation of the new Suspension Policy to begin in Term 4, 2022.

These are significant changes that will affect the school. I have personally presented to all students in Year Meetings this week the changes and how they will impact them.

To include you in the conversation I have attached:

1. the Behaviour Code for Students that lists the rules that all NSW Public Schools and all students must abide by, including uniform.
2. excerpts pages 16 and 17 from the Policy Procedures document that lists the grounds for school suspension, including behaviour that disrupts the learning of others, and verbal and psychological abuse.
3. draft Mobile Phone and Electronic Device procedures we are trialling this term.

We will be adhering to the new policy and rules, and we are genuinely seeking your support in upholding the Student Behaviour Code and implementing the procedures around mobile phone use.

When students receive a Formal Caution and Suspension, together we will need your help in developing a Behavioural Support Plan unique to your student.

Here at Lithgow High School, we see this as an opportunity to continue the work we have started in creating a school that promotes *safe, respectful, responsible, learners*; and although these announcements may be new, we have already started this journey in evolving Lithgow High School as a school of choice, where each student can pursue their personal excellence, in an area that is meaningful to them.

I look forward to working together with you in making our school, a great school.

Sincere Regards

Foty G. Loupos JP
Principal

Lithgow High School acknowledges the homelands of all First Nations people and pays respect to Country.

Behaviour code for students

NSW public schools

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

In NSW public schools students are expected to:

- Respect other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- Strive for the highest standards in learning
- Respect all members of the school community and show courtesy to all students, teachers and community members
- Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- Comply with the school's uniform policy or dress code
- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Respect all property
- Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco into our schools
- Not bully, harass, intimidate or discriminate against anyone in our schools

Schools take strong action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high quality teaching and learning.

Behaviour Code for Students: Actions

Promoting the learning, wellbeing and safety of all students in NSW Public Schools is a high priority for the Department of Education.

We implement teaching and learning approaches to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

Respect

- Treat one another with dignity
- Speak and behave courteously
- Cooperate with others
- Develop positive and respectful relationships and think about the effect on relationships before acting
- Value the interests, ability and culture of others
- Dress appropriately by complying with the school uniform or dress code
- Take care with property

Safety

- Model and follow departmental, school and/or class codes of behaviour and conduct
- Negotiate and resolve conflict with empathy
- Take personal responsibility for behaviour and actions
- Care for self and others
- Avoid dangerous behaviour and encourage others to avoid dangerous behaviour

Engagement

- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Arrive at school and class on time
- Be prepared for every lesson
- Actively participate in learning
- Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments. The department provides a policy framework and resources such as Legal Issues Bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment. In this context the NSW Government and the Department of Education will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.

3.3 Grounds for suspension

Principals may use suspension as a behaviour management response. Principals must consider factors in [section 3.1](#), including whether possible and appropriate alternative behaviour support measures have been implemented or attempted, and believe that a student's behaviour/s of concern:

- causes **actual harm** to any person; or
- poses an **unacceptable risk to health and safety, learning, and/or the wellbeing** of any person, including where such a risk is posed by
 - a student's continuing, consistent, unproductive and disruptive behaviour that results in a detrimental impact on the educational interests of other students and all possible interventions and supports to redirect or minimise this behaviour have already been attempted
 - a student's behaviour that causes damage to or the destruction or loss of property.

Actual harm or unacceptable risk to health, safety, learning and/or the wellbeing of any person may include the student exhibiting the behaviour/s of concern.

16

Behaviours of concern could include **physical violence, verbal abuse or psychological abuse**. Other examples may include:

- **bullying** (see [Bullying of Students - Prevention and Response policy](#)) and cyber-bullying (see [Cyber-bullying of staff Legal Issues Bulletin](#))
- **drugs in schools** (see [Drugs in Schools policy](#))
- **weapons and knives in schools** (see [Knives in schools Legal Issues Bulletin](#))
- **assault** (see [Assault harassment, stalking and intimidation of students and staff at school Legal Issues Bulletin](#))
- **racism or discrimination**, including that based on sex, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity (see [Anti-Racism policy](#))
- **mis-use of technology** (see [Technology misuse in schools Legal Issues Bulletin](#)).

17

DRAFT: Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Procedures - Trial Term 4

Mobile Phone or any Electronic Device is **off and away** as per teacher instruction – in all areas.

First Confiscation

If the student refuses to follow teacher instruction; Teacher to confiscate Device, place it in dedicated envelope and submit it to the Front Office.

Student can collect the Device at the end of the day.

Second Confiscation

If the student refuses to follow teacher instruction; Teacher to confiscate Device, place it in dedicated envelope and submit it to the Front Office.

If it is the **second** time in any Term a Device has been confiscated, a parent / carer will need to collect the device from the Front Office at School.

Third Confiscation

If the student refuses to follow teacher instruction; Teacher to confiscate Device, place it in dedicated envelope and submit it to the Front Office.

If it is the **third** time in any Term a Device has been confiscated, a parent / carer will need to collect the device from the Front Office at School.

After the Third confiscation students must submit their Device to the Front Office at the beginning of every day and collect it at the end of the day.

Fourth Confiscation

If the student refuses to follow teacher instruction; Teacher to confiscate Device, place it in dedicated envelope and submit it to the Front Office.

If it is the **fourth** time in any Term a Device has been confiscated, a parent / carer will need to collect the device from the Deputy Principal.

After the Fourth confiscation students' will be banned from bringing their Device to school.

At this stage Formal Cautions, Suspensions and other Disciplinary actions will be discussed in relation to their Electronic Device.

This will reset at the beginning of every Term.