



# Ipswich West State Special School

# Student Code of Conduct 2020-2023

## ***Every student succeeding***

*Every student succeeding is the shared vision of Queensland state schools. Our vision shapes regional and school planning to ensure every student receives the support needed to belong to the school community, engage purposefully in learning and experience academic success.*

Queensland Department of Education  
State Schools Strategy 2019-2023

## Purpose

Ipswich West State Special School is committed to providing a safe, respectful and disciplined learning environment for all students, staff, parents and visitors.


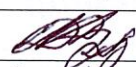
The Ipswich West State Special School Student Code of Conduct sets out the responsibilities and processes we use in our school to promote a productive and effective whole school approach to discipline.

Its purpose is to facilitate high standards of behaviour from all in the school community, ensuring learning and teaching in our school is prioritised, all students are able to experience success and staff enjoy a safe workplace.

## Contact Information

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## Endorsement

Principal Name:	Renae Somerville
Principal Signature:	
Date:	27.11.2020
P/C President and-or School Council Chair Name:	Denver Lacey
P/C President and-or School Council Chair Signature:	
Date:	27/11/2020



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# Learning and Behaviour Statement

All areas of Ipswich West State Special School are learning and teaching environments. We consider the Student Code of Conduct to be an opportunity for valuable social learning as well as a means of maximising the success of student learning programs.

Our Student Code of Conduct outlines our system for facilitating positive behaviours and responding to inappropriate and unacceptable behaviours. Through our school plan, shared expectations for student behaviour are plain to everyone, assisting Ipswich West State Special School to create and maintain a positive and productive learning and teaching environment, where **all** school community members have clear and consistent expectations and understandings of their role in the educational process.

Our school community has identified the following school rules to teach and promote our high standards of responsible behaviour:

- Safe
- Respectful
- Learners

Our school rules have been agreed upon and endorsed by all staff and our school P&C.

## Student Wellbeing and Support Network

Students at Ipswich West State Special School are supported through positive reinforcement and a system of universal, targeted, and intensive behaviour supports by:

- Parents
- Teachers
- Support Staff
- Administration Staff
- Guidance Officer
- Advisory Visiting Teachers
- Senior Guidance Officer
- School Chaplain

Support is also available through the following government and community agencies:

- Child and Youth Mental Health
- Queensland Health
- Department of Communities (Child Safety Services)
- Police
- Local Council



## Whole School Approach to Discipline

Ipswich West State Special School uses Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) as the multi-tiered system of support for discipline in the school. This is a whole-school approach, used in all classrooms and programs offered at the school, including sporting activities and excursions.

PBL is an evidenced-based framework used to:

- analyse and improve student behaviour and learning outcomes
- ensure that only evidence-based practices are used correctly by teachers to support students
- continually support staff members to maintain consistent school and classroom improvement practices.

At Ipswich West State Special School we believe discipline is about more than punishment. It is a word that reflects our belief that student behaviour is a part of the overall teaching and learning approach in our school. Our staff take responsibility for making their expectations clear, for providing supportive instruction about how to meet these expectations and strive to use behavioural incidents as opportunities to re-teach.

Staff at Ipswich West State Special School are committed to delivering a high quality of education for every student, and believe all adults in the school, whether visiting or working, should meet the same three Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) expectations in place for student: Safe, Respectful, Learner.

The development of the Ipswich West State Special School Student Code of Conduct is an opportunity to explain the PBL framework with parents and students and gain their support to implement a consistent approach to teaching behaviour. The language and expectations of PBL can be used in any environment, including the home setting for students. Doing everything we can do to set students up for success is a shared goal of every parent and school staff member.

Any students or parents who have questions or would like to discuss the Student Code of Conduct or PBL are encouraged to speak with the class teacher or make an appointment to meet with the principal.

### Consideration of Individual Circumstances

Staff at Ipswich West State Special School take into account students' individual circumstances, such as their behaviour history, disability, mental health and wellbeing, religious and cultural considerations, home environment and care arrangements when teaching expectations, responding to inappropriate behaviour or applying a disciplinary consequence.

In considering the individual circumstances of each student, we recognise that the way we teach, the support we provide and the way we respond to students will differ. This reflects the principle of equality, where every student is given the support they need to be successful. This also means that not everyone will be treated the same, because treating everyone the same is not fair. For example, some students need additional support to interpret or understand an expectation. Others may benefit from more opportunities to practise a required skill or behaviour. For a small number of students, the use of certain disciplinary consequences may be considered inappropriate or ineffective due to complex trauma or family circumstances. These are all matters that our teachers and principal consider with each individual student in both the instruction of behaviour and the response to behaviour.

Our teachers are also obliged by law to respect and protect the privacy of individual students, so while we understand the interest of other students, staff and parents to know what punishment another student might have received, we will not disclose or discuss this information with anyone but the student's family. This applies even if the behavioural incident, such as bullying, involves your child. You can be assured that school staff take all matters, such as bullying, very seriously and will address them appropriately. We expect that parents and students will respect the privacy of other students and families.

If you have concerns about the behaviour of another student at the school, or the way our staff have responded to their behaviour, please make an appointment with the principal to discuss the matter.

## **Differentiated and Explicit Teaching**

Ipswich West State Special School is a disciplined school environment that provides differentiated teaching to respond to the learning needs of all students. This involves teaching expected behaviours and providing opportunities for students to practise these behaviours. Teachers reinforce expected behaviours, provide feedback and correction and opportunities for practise.

Teachers at Ipswich West State Special School vary what students learn, how they are taught and how students can demonstrate what they know as part of this differentiated approach to behaviour. Decisions about differentiation are made in response to data and day-to-day monitoring that indicates the behavioural learning needs of students. This enables our teachers to purposefully plan a variety of ways to engage students; assist them to achieve the expected learning; and to demonstrate their learning.

A set of behavioural expectations in specific settings has been attached to each of our three school rules. The *School-wide Expectations Teaching Matrix* below outlines our agreed rules and specific behavioural expectations in all school settings.

These expectations are communicated to students via a number of strategies, including:

- identifying a focus expectation each week
- behaviour lessons conducted by classroom teachers
- reinforcement of learning from behaviour lessons as staff actively supervise during classroom and non-classroom activities
- awarding green and orange 'Gotcha' cards for students exhibiting desired behaviours.



## We are SAFE when:



Whole School	Classroom	Bus and Front Gate	Courtyard	When Eating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We keep our hands, feet and other objects to ourselves</li> <li>We follow teacher instructions</li> <li>We walk safely on hard surfaces</li> <li>We think before we act</li> <li>We report unsafe or suspicious behaviour</li> <li>We make way for others on walkways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We take responsibility for our own actions</li> <li>We ask permission to leave the classroom</li> <li>We use classroom furniture and resources appropriately</li> <li>We are on time to class and programs</li> <li>We sit on our chairs correctly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We sit quietly and wait for our bus or to be picked up</li> <li>We stay inside the school until a staff member calls us</li> <li>We walk straight to our bus or car</li> <li>We keep our heads and arms inside the bus or car</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We play appropriate games in the courtyard</li> <li>We ride the bikes carefully and responsibly</li> <li>We listen to the staff member on duty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We eat our own food and use our own bottle for a drink</li> <li>We sit down while we eat</li> <li>We chew our food carefully</li> </ul>

## We are RESPECTFUL when:



Whole School	Classroom	Bus and Front Gate	Courtyard	When Eating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We use polite and positive language</li> <li>We take care of our school</li> <li>We take pride in who we are</li> <li>We listen to and follow staff instructions</li> <li>We keep our hands and feet to ourselves</li> <li>We show courtesy to guests in our school</li> <li>We use our manners</li> <li>We take care of our belongings</li> <li>We listen when others are speaking to me</li> <li>We put rubbish in the bins</li> <li>We greet others with a smile</li> <li>We treat school and others' property well</li> <li>We treat others the way we want to be treated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We keep our work area tidy and clean</li> <li>We speak respectfully and at appropriate times</li> <li>We respect other people's choices</li> <li>We look after our equipment</li> <li>We listen to and follow staff instructions</li> <li>We use an inside voice</li> <li>We ask before we leave the room</li> <li>We put our rubbish in the bin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We do what the bus supervisor expects</li> <li>We keep the bus clean</li> <li>We wait quietly and calmly for our bus or to be picked up</li> <li>We listen for the staff member to call us to the gate</li> <li>We follow staff instructions</li> <li>We speak quietly and respectfully</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We speak politely to others using appropriate language</li> <li>We use equipment correctly</li> <li>We look after the schools property</li> <li>We listen to and follow staff instructions</li> <li>We share</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We chew with our mouths closed.</li> <li>We cut our food when necessary.</li> </ul>



Toilets	Program Transition	Oval	Junior Front Play	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We allow others to use the facilities comfortably</li> <li>We leave the toilets clean</li> <li>We put our rubbish in the bin</li> <li>We give space and privacy to others</li> <li>We use the appropriate amount of soap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We move safely and appropriately to our class or program</li> <li>We are on time</li> <li>We line up and wait quietly and calmly</li> <li>We use appropriate language and volume of voice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We speak politely to others using appropriate language</li> <li>We listen to and follow the referees decision</li> <li>We are friendly and treat others with care</li> <li>We let others join in our game</li> <li>We treat school and others' property well</li> <li>We show good sportsmanship</li> <li>We encourage others when playing games</li> <li>We return equipment at the end of play</li> <li>We report damaged or lost items to a staff member</li> <li>We keep hands and feet to ourselves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We speak politely to others using appropriate language</li> <li>We share the toys and the equipment</li> <li>We listen to the staff members</li> <li>We pack up when the bell goes</li> <li>We keep our hands, feet and other objects to ourselves</li> <li>We let others join in our games</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We show appropriate behaviour</li> <li>We show pride in ourselves and our school</li> <li>We are considerate to the public</li> <li>We are polite and courteous to people we interact with (shop assistants, bus drivers etc)</li> <li>We follow the rules set by venues we visit</li> <li>We listen and follow the staff members instructions</li> </ul>

## We are LEARNERS when:



Whole School	Classroom	Bus and Front Gate	Courtyard	When Eating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are on time to our programs</li> <li>We listen to and follow staff instructions</li> <li>We are always neat and tidy</li> <li>We take care of our property</li> <li>We know the schools expectations</li> <li>We are role models</li> <li>We know when to "cool down"</li> <li>We know where to play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We complete our class work and try our best</li> <li>We wait until directed by a staff member to start a computer</li> <li>We listen to and follow directions</li> <li>We take turns and share equipment and games</li> <li>We keep our workbooks tidy and up to date</li> <li>We listen to others while they are speaking</li> <li>We are organised and have our equipment ready</li> <li>We know the class expectations</li> <li>We share ideas</li> <li>We engage in class discussions and activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We know the expectations for bus line</li> <li>We know where to wait</li> <li>We sit and wait quietly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We know what is expected of us</li> <li>We problem solve to share equipment</li> <li>We learn how to play safely</li> <li>We take turns and share equipment</li> <li>We listen to the staff member on duty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We know how to eat politely</li> <li>We stay in the correct area while eating</li> <li>We learn to eat healthy foods and make healthy choices</li> </ul>



Toilets	Program Transition	Oval	Junior Front Play	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We learn about personal safety</li> <li>• We take advantage of play times to go to the toilet</li> <li>• We remember the expectations</li> <li>• We respect other people's privacy</li> <li>• We ask permission to use the facilities during class time and return quickly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We learn how to line up and wait quietly</li> <li>• We walk to our next activity</li> <li>• We are on time</li> <li>• We learn our timetable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We learn and share fun games</li> <li>• We know what it means to be a good sport</li> <li>• We know about sun safety</li> <li>• We include people in our games</li> <li>• We take turns with the equipment</li> <li>• We listen to the staff member on duty</li> <li>• We come back to class when the first bell goes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We remember to keep our hats on</li> <li>• We share the toys</li> <li>• We listen to the staff member on duty</li> <li>• We play nice and safe games with each other</li> <li>• We sit around the picnic tables when the bell goes and wait to go back to class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We learn to show respect</li> <li>• We learn and follow the road safety rules</li> <li>• We take responsibility for our behaviour and belongings</li> </ul>

## Focused Teaching

At Ipswich West State Special School, every student has an individual *Student Engagement Plan*, based on the Zones of Regulation and strategies from the Berry Street Education Model. The *Student Engagement Plan* outlines the proactive strategies that support the student to stay in the green zone and be ready to learn. The plan also describes any minor (yellow zone) or major (red zone) behaviours the student may demonstrate and the strategies that should be used to assist the student to return to the green zone.

*Student Engagement Plans* are developed by classroom teachers in consultation with parents/carers. The plan is reviewed and updated at least once per semester, or more frequently if required.

Some students may require additional support to meet behaviour expectations, even after being provided with differentiated and explicit teaching. These students may have difficulty meeting behavioural expectations in a particular period of the day or as part of a learning area/subject, and focused teaching is provided to help them achieve success.

Focused teaching involves revisiting key behavioural concepts and/or skills and using explicit and structured teaching strategies in particular aspects of a behaviour skill. Focused teaching provides students with more opportunities to practise skills and multiple opportunities to achieve the intended learning and expected behaviour.

## Intensive Teaching

Ipswich West State Special School is committed to educating all students, including those with the highest behavioural support needs. We recognise that students with highly complex and challenging behaviours may need comprehensive systems of support that require regular reviews in consultation with parents/caregivers and other relevant specialist staff.

The school based *Positive Behaviour for Learning* team:

- works with other staff members to develop appropriate behaviour expectations and strategies
- monitors the impact of support for individual students through continuous data collection
- provides consistent strategies and adjustments outlined within the *Student Engagement Plan*
- works with the Leadership team to achieve continuity and consistency.

The school has a number of teachers who have been trained in functional behaviour assessment. When needed, these teachers are released to provide additional support to class teachers.

The school based *Positive Behaviour for Learning* team has a simple and quick referral system in place. Following referral, a team member contacts parents and any relevant staff members to form a support team and begin the assessment and support process. In many cases the support team also includes individuals from other agencies already working with the student and their family, a representative from the school's leadership team and specialist behaviour services staff.



## Disciplinary Consequences

Ipswich West State Special School makes systematic efforts to prevent inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour by teaching and reinforcing expected behaviours on an ongoing basis. When these behaviour incidents occur, it is important that consequences are predictable. Our school seeks to ensure that responses to inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour are consistent and proportionate to the nature of the behaviour.

### Minor and major behaviours

When responding to behaviour incidents, the staff member determines if the problem behaviour is minor or major, with the following agreed understanding:

- **Minor** behaviour incidents are handled by staff members at the time it happens
- **Major** behaviour incidents are managed as per the individual *Student Engagement Plan*.

**Minor** problem behaviours are those that:

- are minor breaches of the school rules
- do not seriously harm others or cause you to suspect that the student may be harmed
- do not violate the rights of others in any other serious way
- are not part of a pattern of inappropriate behaviours
- do not require involvement of specialist support staff or the leadership team.

**Minor** problem behaviours may result in the following consequences:

- a minor consequence logically connected to the inappropriate behaviour, such as complete removal from an activity or event for a specified period of time, partial removal (time away), individual meeting with the student, apology, restitution or detention for work completion.
- a re-direction process where a staff member takes the student aside and:
  1. names the behaviour that student is displaying
  2. asks student to name expected school behaviour
  3. states and explains expected school behaviour if necessary
  4. gives positive verbal acknowledgement for expected school behaviour.

**Major** behaviours are those that:

- significantly violate the rights of others
- put others / self at risk of harm
- require the involvement of school leadership team.

**Major** behaviours result in referral to the leadership team through OneSchool because of their seriousness. When major unacceptable behaviour occurs, staff members follow individual *Student Engagement Plans*.

The following table outlines examples of minor and major behaviour incidents. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. Other behaviours will be dealt with as appropriate.

	Area	Minor	Major
Safe	Movement around school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Running on concrete or around buildings</li> <li>Running in stairwells</li> <li>Not walking bike in school grounds</li> </ul>	
	Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorrect use of equipment</li> <li>Not playing school approved games</li> <li>Playing in toilets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throwing objects</li> <li>Possession of weapons</li> </ul>
	Physical contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor physical contact (pushing and shoving)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serious physical aggression</li> <li>Fighting</li> </ul>
	Correct Attire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not wearing a hat in playground</li> <li>Not wearing shoes outside</li> </ul>	
	Other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possession or selling of drugs</li> <li>Weapons including knives and any other items which could be considered a weapon being taken to school</li> <li>Inappropriate use of personal technology devices or social networking sites, which impacts on the good order and management of the school</li> </ul>
Respectful	Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inappropriate language (written/verbal)</li> <li>Calling out</li> <li>Poor attitude</li> <li>Disrespectful tone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offensive language</li> <li>Aggressive language</li> <li>Verbal abuse / directed profanity</li> </ul>
	Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Petty theft</li> <li>Lack of care for the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stealing / major theft</li> <li>Wilful property damage</li> <li>Vandalism</li> </ul>
	Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not playing fairly</li> <li>Minor disruption to class</li> <li>Minor defiance</li> <li>Minor bullying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major bullying</li> <li>Major disruption to class</li> <li>Blatant disrespect</li> <li>Major defiance</li> <li>Inappropriate use of personal technology devices or social networking sites, which impacts on the good order and management of the school</li> </ul>
Learner	Class tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not completing set tasks that are at an appropriate level</li> <li>Refusing to work</li> </ul>	
	Being in the right place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not being punctual (e.g. lateness after breaks)</li> <li>Not in the right place at the right time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaving class without permission (out of sight)</li> <li>Leaving school without permission</li> </ul>
	Follow instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low intensity failure to respond to adult request</li> <li>Non compliance</li> <li>Unco-operative behaviour</li> </ul>	
	Accept outcomes for behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor dishonesty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major dishonesty that impacts on others</li> </ul>
	Rubbish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Littering</li> </ul>	
	Mobile phone or personal technology devices		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of a mobile phone and/or personal technology device in any part of the school throughout the school day</li> <li>Inappropriate use of personal technology devices or social networking sites, which impacts on the good order and management of the school</li> </ul>



### **Relate inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour to expected school behaviours**

When responding to inappropriate or unacceptable behaviours, staff members ensure that students understand the relationship of the behaviour to expected school behaviour. One method that staff members might use to achieve this is to have students:

- articulate the relevant expected school behaviour
- explain how their behaviour differs from expected school behaviour,
- describe the likely consequences if the problem behaviour continues; and
- identify what they will do to change their behaviour in line with expected school behaviour.

Should an inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour be repeated, the staff member may not repeat the discussion/explanation process but simply remind the student of the consequences of their problem behaviour.

### **Ensuring consistent responses to inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour**

At Ipswich West State Special School, staff members authorised to issue consequences for behaviour incidents are provided with appropriate professional development and/or training. Through training activities, we work to ensure consistent responses to behaviour incidents across the school.

Students are also taught how to respond when other students display inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour. The courteous way to respond when a staff member redirects a student's behaviour is taught and rehearsed to reduce the impact of peer engagement in the behaviour incident.

Student disciplinary absences (suspension and exclusion) may be considered:

- in the event of a serious, one-off behaviour incident or
- after consideration has been given to all other responses.

## **School Disciplinary Absences**

A School Disciplinary Absence (SDA) is an enforced period of absence from attending a Queensland state school, applied by the Principal as a consequence to address poor student behaviour. There are four types of SDA:

- Short suspension (1 to 10 school days)
- Long suspension (11 to 20 school days)
- Charge-related suspension
- Exclusion (period of not more than one year or permanently).

At Ipswich West State Special School, the use of any SDA is considered a very serious decision. It is typically only used by the Principal when other options have been exhausted or the student's behaviour is so dangerous that continued attendance at the school is considered a risk to the safety or wellbeing of the school community.

Parents and students may appeal a long suspension, charge-related suspension or exclusion decision. A review will be conducted by the Director-General or their delegate, and a decision made within 40 school days to confirm, amend/vary or set aside the original SDA decision by the Principal.

The appeal process is a thorough review of all documentation associated with the SDA decision and provides an opportunity for both the school and the family to present their case in the matter. Time is afforded for collection, dissemination and response to the materials by both the school and the family. It is important that the purpose of the appeal is understood so that expectations are clear, and appropriate



supports are in place to ensure students can continue to access their education while completing their SDA.

### **Re-entry following suspension**

Students who are suspended from Ipswich West State Special School will be invited to attend a re-entry meeting on the day of their scheduled return to school. The main purpose of this meeting is to welcome the student, with their parent/carer, back to the school. It is **not a time** to review the student's behaviour or the decision to suspend, the student has already received a punishment through their disciplinary absence from school. The aim of the re-entry meeting is for school staff to set the student up for future success and strengthen home-school communication.

### **Arrangements**

The invitation to attend the re-entry meeting will be communicated via telephone and/or in writing, usually via email. Re-entry meetings are short and attended by the Principal and Deputy Principal with the student and their parent/carer. Where necessary, other relevant stakeholders will be invited to attend to support the student's successful re-engagement in school.

A record of the meeting is saved in OneSchool, under the Contact tab, including any notes or discussions occurring during the meeting.

### **Structure**

The structure of the re-meeting should follow a set agenda, shared in advance with the student and their parent/carer. If additional items are raised for discussion, a separate arrangement should be made to meet with the parent/carers at a later date and time. This meeting should be focussed on making the student and their family feel welcome back into the school community.

Possible agenda:

- Welcome back to school
- Check in on student wellbeing
- Discuss any recent changes to school routine or staffing
- Set a date for follow-up
- Thank student and parent/s for attending
- Walk with student to classroom

### **Reasonable adjustments**

In planning the re-entry meeting, school staff will consider reasonable adjustments needed to support the attendance and engagement of the student. This includes selecting an appropriate and accessible meeting space, organising translation or interpretation services or supports (e.g. AUSLAN), provision of written and/or pictorial information and other relevant accommodations.

## School Policies

Ipswich West State Special School has tailored school discipline policies designed to ensure students, staff and visitors work cooperatively to create and maintain a supportive and safe learning environment. Please ensure that you familiarise yourself with the responsibilities for students, staff and visitors outlined in the following policies:

- Temporary removal of student property
- Use of mobile phones and other devices by students
- Preventing and responding to bullying
- Appropriate use of social media

### Temporary removal of student property

The removal of any property in a student's possession may be necessary to promote the caring, safe and supportive learning environment of the school, to maintain and foster mutual respect between all state school staff, students and visitors. The **Temporary removal of student property by school staff procedure** outlines the processes, conditions and responsibilities for state school principals and school staff when temporarily removing student property.

Students at Ipswich West State Special School:

- must not bring property onto school grounds or other settings used by the school (e.g. camp or sporting venues) that
  - is prohibited according to the school's Student Code of Conduct
  - is illegal (e.g. drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy or amphetamines)
  - puts the safety or wellbeing of others at risk (e.g. knife, firearm, handcuffs or replica firearms)
  - does not preserve a caring, supportive or productive learning environment (e.g. baton, nunchaku or club)
  - does not maintain and foster mutual respect (e.g. printed materials with offensive language or extremist propaganda).
- collect their property as soon as possible when advised by the principal or state school staff is available for collection.

Parents/carers of students at Ipswich West State Special School must:

- ensure their children do not bring property onto school grounds or other settings used by the school that
  - is prohibited according to the Student Code of Conduct
  - is illegal (e.g. drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines)
  - puts the safety or wellbeing of others at risk (e.g. knife, firearm, handcuffs, or replica firearms)
  - does not preserve a caring, safe, supportive or productive learning environment (e.g. baton, nunchaku, or club)
  - does not maintain and foster mutual respect (e.g. printed materials with offensive language).
- collect temporarily removed student property as soon as possible after they have been notified by the principal or state school staff that the property is available for collection.

### Temporary removal of student property

- Property may be temporarily removed from a student if the principal or state school staff are reasonably satisfied the removal is necessary to
  - ensure compliance with the Student Code of Conduct



- preserve the caring, safe, supportive and productive learning environment of the school
- maintain and foster mutual respect among staff and students at the school
- encourage all students to take responsibility for their own behaviour and the consequences of their actions
- provide for the effective administration of matters about the students of the school.

#### **Return of temporarily removed student property**

- Principal or state school staff determine when the temporarily removed student property can be returned, unless the property has been handed to the Queensland Police Service.
- Ensure temporarily removed student property held by the school is made available for collection by the student or parent within a reasonable time period
- If the student is a child, the principal or school staff member may choose to make the temporarily removed property available for collection to the parent only if it is more appropriate to do so, given
  - its condition, nature or value, and/or
  - to ensure the safety of students or staff, and/or
  - for the good order and management, administration and control of the school.
- Where the student is independent or mature age, it may be appropriate to return the temporarily removed property directly to them
- Ensure temporarily removed student property made available for collection is in the same condition as when the property was removed.

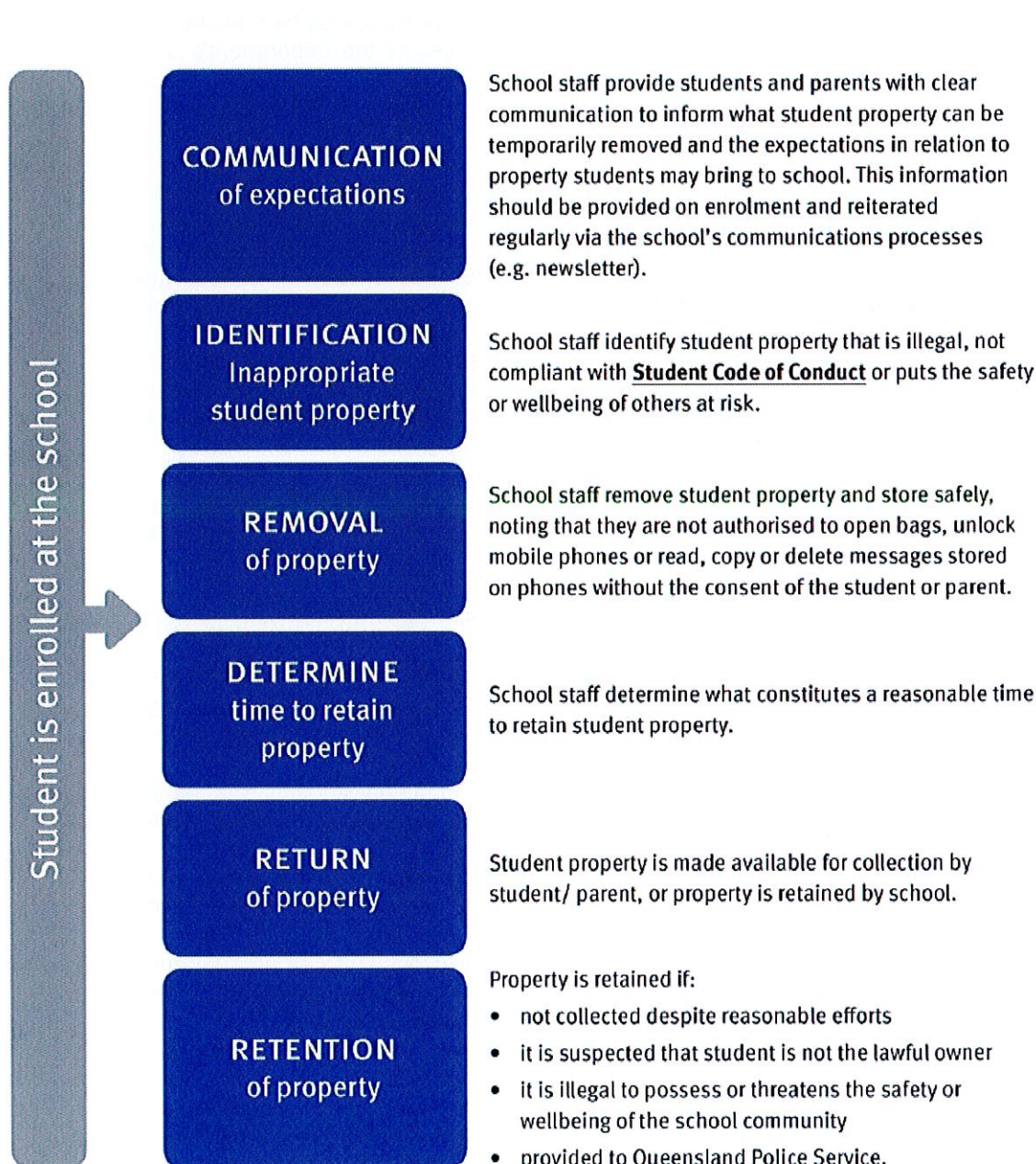
#### **Retention of temporarily removed student property**

- Principal and state school staff may retain temporarily removed student property if
  - the property is illegal to possess, threatens the safety or wellbeing of students or staff or is reasonably suspected to have been used to commit a crime and state school staff are in the process of notifying police
  - police state that they will come to the school to investigate matters relating to the temporarily removed student property, then it is kept until police attend
    - if police seize the property under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 (QLD)*, advise the student and their parent of this action and that the temporarily removed student property is longer in possession of school staff
    - if police decide not to seize the property, return the temporarily removed student property to the student or parent as soon as practicable.
- Student or parent has not collected the temporarily removed student property despite reasonable efforts (multiple phone calls, emails or meetings) by the principal or state school staff to advise the student or parent it is available for collection
- Where staff reasonably suspect that the student is not the lawful owner of the property.



## Deciding a reasonable time to retain or make property available for collection

- In deciding a reasonable time to retain or make property available for collection, principals and school staff will consider the
  - condition, nature or value of the property
  - circumstances in which the property was removed
  - safety of the student from whom the property was removed, other students or staff members
  - good management, administration and control of the school.





# Use of mobile phones and other devices by students

## Purpose statement

- Information and communication technology (ICT), including access to and use of the internet and email, are essential tools for schools in the provision of innovative educational programs.
- Schools are constantly exploring new and innovative ways to incorporate safe and secure ICT use into the educational program.
- School students, only with the approval of the principal, may be permitted limited connection of personally-owned mobile devices to the department's network, where this benefits the student's educational program.

## Authorisation and controls

The principal reserves the right to restrict student access to the school's ICT services, facilities and devices if access and usage requirements are not met or are breached. However restricted access will not disrupt the provision of the student's educational program. For example, a student with restricted school network access may be allocated a stand-alone computer to continue their educational program activities.

The Department of Education monitors access to and use of its network. For example, email and internet monitoring occurs to identify inappropriate use, protect system security and maintain system performance in determining compliance with state and departmental policy.

The department may conduct security audits and scans, and restrict or deny access to the department's network by any personal mobile device if there is any suspicion that the integrity of the network might be at risk.

## Responsibilities for using the school's ICT facilities and devices

- Students are expected to demonstrate safe, lawful and ethical behaviour when using the school's ICT network as outlined in the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- Students are to be aware of occupational health and safety issues when using computers and other learning devices.
- Parents/guardians are also responsible for ensuring students understand the school's ICT access and usage requirements, including the acceptable and unacceptable behaviour requirements.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for appropriate internet use by students outside the school environment when using a school-owned or school-provided mobile device.
- The school will [educate students](#) regarding cyber bullying, safe internet and email practices, and health and safety regarding the physical use of ICT devices. Students have a responsibility to adopt these safe practices.
- Use of the school's ICT network is secured with a user name and password. The password must be difficult enough so that it cannot be guessed by other users and is to be kept private by the student and not divulged to other individuals (e.g. a student should not share their username and password with fellow students).
- Students cannot use another student's or staff member's username or password to access the school network. This includes not browsing or accessing another person's files, home or local drive, email or accessing unauthorised network drives or systems. Additionally, students should not divulge personal information (e.g. name, parent's name, address, phone numbers), via the internet or email, to unknown entities or for reasons other than to fulfil the educational program requirements of the school.
- Students need to understand that copying software, information, graphics or other data files may violate copyright laws without warning and be subject to prosecution from enforcement agencies.

## **Responsibilities for using a personal mobile device on the department's network**

- Prior to using any personally-owned mobile device, students must seek approval from the school principal to ensure it reflects the department's security requirements.
- Students are responsible for the security, integrity, insurance and maintenance of their personal mobile devices and their private network accounts.
- Where possible, appropriate anti-virus software has been installed and is being managed.
- Students must follow any advice provided on best security requirements e.g. password protection.
- Students and parents are to employ caution with the use of personal mobile devices particularly as these devices can store significant numbers of files some of which may be unacceptable at school e.g. games and 'exe' files. An 'exe' file ends with the extension '.exe' otherwise known as an executable file. These files can install undesirable, inappropriate or malicious software or programs.
- Any inappropriate material or unlicensed software must be removed from personal mobile devices before bringing the devices to school and such material is not to be shared with other students.
- Unacceptable use will lead to the mobile device being [confiscated](#) by school employees, with its collection/return to occur at the end of the school day where the mobile device is not required for further investigation.

## **Acceptable/appropriate use/behaviour by a student**

It is acceptable for students while at school to:

- hand in personal mobile phones and other devices to the office on arrival at school in the morning
- collect personal mobile phones and other devices from the office at the end of the school day.

## **Unacceptable/inappropriate use/behaviour by a student**

It is unacceptable for students while at school to:

- have their personal mobile phone and/or other device in their possession at any time throughout the school day
- use a mobile device in an unlawful manner
- download, distribute or publish offensive messages or pictures
- use obscene, inflammatory, racist, discriminatory or derogatory language
- use language and/or threats of violence that may amount to bullying and/or harassment, or stalking
- insult, harass or attack others or use obscene or abusive language
- deliberately waste printing and internet resources
- damage computers, printers or network equipment
- commit plagiarism or violate copyright laws
- ignore teacher directions regarding the use of social media, online email and internet chat
- send chain letters or spam email (junk mail)
- share their own or others' personal information and/or images which could result in risk to themselves or another person's safety
- knowingly download viruses or any other programs capable of breaching the department's network security
- use in-phone cameras inappropriately, such as in change rooms or toilets
- invade someone's privacy by recording personal conversations or daily activities and/or the further distribution (e.g. forwarding, texting, uploading, Bluetooth use etc.) of such material.



## **Bringing personal technology devices to school**

Bringing personal technology devices to school is not encouraged by the school because of the potential for theft and general distraction and/or disruption associated with them. However, if they are brought to school, they must be handed into the office at the beginning of the school day where they will be stored securely. Students can collect their personal technology devices from the office at the end of the school day. Students who fail to hand their personal technology devices into the office will face disciplinary consequences.

Personal technology devices include, but are not limited to the following devices:

- mobile phones
- portable gaming devices
- iPod, iPod Touch or iPad
- laptop computers
- cameras and/or voice recording devices (whether or not integrated with a mobile phone or MP3 player)

## **Personal technology devices banned from school**

Students must not bring valuable personal technology devices like cameras, digital video cameras or MP3 players to school as there is a risk of damage or theft. Such devices will be confiscated by school staff and may be collected at the end of the day from the school office. Breaches of this prohibition may result in disciplinary consequences.

## **Text communication**

The sending of text messages that contain obscene language and/or threats of violence may amount to bullying and/or harassment or even stalking, and will subject the sender to discipline and possible referral to QPS. Students receiving such text messages at school, should ensure they keep the message as evidence and bring the matter to the attention of the school office.

## **Recording Private Conversations and the Invasion of Privacy Act 1971**

It is important that all members of the school community understand that under the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971*, 'a person is guilty of an offence against this Act if the person uses a listening device to overhear, record, monitor or listen to a private conversation'. It is also an offence under the Act for a person who has overheard, recorded, monitored or listened to a conversation to which s/he is not a party to publish or communicate the substance or meaning of the conversation to others.

Students need to understand that some conversations are private and therefore to overhear, record, monitor or listen to such private conversations may be in breach of this Act, unless consent to the recording is appropriately obtained.

## **Special Circumstances Arrangement**

Students who require the use of a personal assistive technology device in circumstances that would contravene this policy (for example to assist with a medical condition or other disability or for a special project) should negotiate a special circumstances arrangement with the Principal or Deputy Principal.

## **Inappropriate behaviour outside of school hours**

Students may receive disciplinary consequences for bullying or cyberbullying or other inappropriate online behaviour that occurs out of school hours, and affects the good order and management of the school.

## Preventing and responding to bullying

Ipswich West State Special School strives to create positive, predictable environments for all students at all times of the day. The disciplined teaching environment that we are creating is essential to:

- achieving overall school improvement, including the effectiveness and efficiency of our student support procedures
- raising achievement and attendance
- promoting equality and diversity and
- ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of the school community.

There is no place for bullying in Ipswich West State Special School. Research indicates that both those being bullied and those who bully are at risk for behavioural, emotional and academic problems. These outcomes are in direct contradiction to our school community's goals and efforts for supporting all students.

Bullying behaviours that will not be tolerated at Ipswich West State Special School include name-calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments, kicking, hitting, pushing, taking belongings, inappropriate text messaging, sending offensive or degrading images by phone or internet, producing offensive graffiti, gossiping, excluding people from groups, and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.

Bullying may be related to:

- race, religion or culture
- disability
- appearance or health conditions
- sexual orientation
- sexist or sexual language
- young carers or children in care.

### **Bullying**

The agreed national definition for Australian schools describes bullying as:

- ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm;
- involving an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening;
- happening in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example through sharing digital records);
- having immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

Behaviours that do not constitute bullying include:

- mutual arguments and disagreements (where there is no power imbalance)
- not liking someone or a single act of social rejection
- one-off acts of meanness or spite
- isolated incidents of aggression, intimidation or violence.

However, these conflicts are still considered serious and need to be addressed and resolved. At Ipswich West State Special School, our staff will work quickly to respond to any matters raised of this nature in collaboration with students and parents.



## **Prevention**

Attempting to address specific problem behaviours will not be successful if the general level of disruptive behaviour in all areas of our school is not kept to a low level. Therefore, our school-wide universal behaviour support practices will be maintained at all times. This will ensure that:

- Our universal behaviour support processes will always remain the primary strategy for preventing problem behaviour, including preventing the subset of bullying behaviour
- All students know the 3 school rules and have been taught the expected behaviours attached to each rule in all areas of the school
- All students have been or are being taught the specific routines in the non-classroom areas, from exiting the classroom, conducting themselves in accordance with the school expectations in the playground and other areas, to re-entering their classrooms
- All students are receiving high levels of positive reinforcement for demonstrating expected behaviours, including those associated with following our routines, from all staff in the non-classroom areas of the school
- A high level of quality active supervision is a permanent staff routine in the non-classroom areas. This means that duty staff members are easily identifiable and are constantly moving, scanning and positively interacting as they move through the designated supervision sectors of the non-classroom areas.

Ipswich West State Special School will take part in the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence each year. This is to highlight the importance of bullying issues within our school community and what our school is doing to prevent this.

Research indicates that a common outcome of anti-bullying programming is an improvement in understanding of bullying but little change in the frequency or nature of actual bullying behaviour. One of the reasons cited for this outcome is the lack of behavioural rehearsal in the programming. The anti-bullying process at Ipswich West State Special School takes care to combine knowledge with practice in a process of active learning, so that students understand by 'doing' as much as by 'knowing'.

Ipswich West State Special School uses behavioural data for decision-making. This data is entered into our database on a daily basis and can be recalled as summary reports at any time. This facility allows the school to track the effectiveness of its anti-bullying process, to make any necessary adjustments, and to identify specific bullying behaviours that may need to be revisited or revised in the instructional process.



## Bullying response flowchart for teachers

The following flowchart explains the actions Ipswich West State Special School teachers will take when they receive a report about student bullying, including bullying which may have occurred online or outside of the school setting.

Please note these timelines may be adjusted depending on the unique circumstances and risk associated with each situation. This is at the professional judgment of the staff involved. Timeframes should be clearly discussed and agreed with student and family.

### Key contacts for students and parents to report bullying:

Prep to Year 12 – Class teacher

Deputy Principal – Abby Kilfoy, 3813 5111

Principal – Renae Somerville, 3813 5111

First hour  
Listen

- Provide a safe, quiet space to talk
- Reassure the student that you will listen to them
- Let them share their experience and feelings without interruption
- If you hold immediate concerns for the student's safety, let the student know how you will address these. Immediate in this circumstance is where the staff member believes the student is likely to experience harm (from others or self) within the next 24 hours

Day one  
Document

- Ask the student for examples they have of the alleged bullying (e.g. hand written notes or screenshots)
- Write a record of your communication with the student
- Check back with the student to ensure you have the facts correct
- Enter the record in OneSchool
- Notify parent/s that the issue of concern is being investigated

Day two  
Collect

- Gather additional information from other students, staff or family
- Review any previous reports or records for students involved
- Make sure you can answer who, what, where, when and how
- Clarify information with student and check on their wellbeing

Day three  
Discuss

- Evaluate the information to determine if bullying has occurred or if another disciplinary matter is at issue
- Make a time to meet with the student to discuss next steps
- Ask the student what they believe will help address the situation
- Provide the student and parent with information about student support network
- Agree to a plan of action and timeline for the student, parent and yourself

Day four  
Implement

- Document the plan of action in OneSchool
- Complete all actions agreed with student and parent within agreed timeframes
- Monitor the student and check in regularly on their wellbeing
- Seek assistance from student support network if needed

Day five  
Review

- Meet with the student to review situation
- Discuss what has changed, improved or worsened
- Explore other options for strengthening student wellbeing or safety
- Report back to parent
- Record outcomes in OneSchool

Ongoing  
Follow up

- Continue to check in with student on regular basis until concerns have been mitigated
- Record notes of follow-up meetings in OneSchool
- Refer matter to specialist staff within 48 hours if problems escalate
- Look for opportunities to improve school wellbeing for all students

## **Cyberbullying**

Cyberbullying is treated at Ipswich West State Special School with the same level of seriousness as in-person bullying. The major difference with cyberbullying however, is that unlike in-person bullying, cyberbullying follows students into their community, their homes and their bedrooms, giving them no opportunity to escape the harassment or abuse during the evening, weekends or holidays.

In the first instance, students or parents who wish to make a report about cyberbullying should approach the class teacher.

It is important for students, parents and staff to know that state school principals have the authority to take disciplinary action to address student behaviours that occur outside of school hours or school grounds. This includes cyberbullying. Parents and students who have concerns about cyberbullying incidents occurring during school holidays should immediately seek assistance through the [Office of the e-Safety Commissioner](#) or the Queensland Police Service.

Students enrolled at Ipswich West State Special School may face in-school disciplinary action, such as detention or removing of privileges, or more serious consequences such as suspension or exclusion from school for engaging in behaviour that adversely affects, or is likely to adversely affect, other students or the good order and management of the school. This includes behaviour such as cyberbullying which occurs outside of school hours or settings, for example on the weekend or during school holidays. It also applies to inappropriate online behaviour of enrolled students that is directed towards other community members or students from other school sites.

Parents or other stakeholders who engage in inappropriate online behaviour towards students, staff or other parents may be referred to the Office of the e-Safety Commissioner and/or the Queensland Police Service. State school staff will be referred for investigation to the Integrity and Employee Relations team in the Department of Education. Any questions or concerns about the school process for managing or responding to cyberbullying should be directed to the Principal or Deputy Principal.

## **Appropriate use of social media**

The internet, mobile phones and social media provide wonderful opportunities for students to network and socialise online. While these technologies provide positive platforms for sharing ideas, they also have the potential to cause pain and suffering to individuals, groups or even whole communities.

It's important to remember that sometimes negative comments posted about the school community have a greater impact than expected. This guide offers some information about how to use social media in relation to comments or posts about the school community. Reputations of students, teachers, schools, principals and even parents can be permanently damaged — and in some cases, serious instances of inappropriate online behaviour are dealt with by police and the court system.

Being aware of a few simple strategies can help keep the use of social media positive and constructive:

- Before you post something online, ask yourself if the community or individual really need to know. Is it relevant, positive and helpful?
- Remember that what you post online is a direct reflection of who you are. People will potentially form lasting opinions of you based on what you post online.
- Be a good role model. If things get heated online consider logging out and taking a few moments to relax and think. Hasty, emotive responses could inflame situations unnecessarily.



- Be mindful when commenting, try to keep general and avoid posting anything that could identify individuals.
- A few years ago parents may have discussed concerns or issues with their friends at the school gate. Today with the use of social media, online discussions between you and your close friends can very quickly be shared with a much wider audience, potentially far larger than intended.
- Taking a few moments to think about the content you are about to post could save upset, embarrassment, and possible legal action.
- As a parent you have a role in supervising and regulating your child's online activities at home and its impact on the reputation and privacy of others. Parents are their child's first teachers — so they will learn online behaviours from you.

### **Is it appropriate to comment or post about schools, staff or students?**

Parental and community feedback is important for schools and the department. If you have a compliment, complaint or enquiry about an issue at school, the best approach is to speak directly to the school about the matter, rather than discussing it in a public forum.

While many schools use social media to update parents of school notices, the department prefers that parents contact schools directly with a compliment, complaint or enquiry due to privacy considerations. Imagine if your doctor, accountant or banking institution tried to contact you to discuss important matters via Facebook.

If you have raised an issue with a school or know that another person has, consider refraining from discussing those details on social media, particularly the names of anyone involved.

Keep comments calm and polite, just as you would over the telephone or by email. If you encounter negative or derogatory content online which involves the school, hinders a child's learning and/or affects the school community at large, contact the school principal.

### **Possible civil or criminal ramifications of online commentary**

A serious instance of inappropriate online behaviour may constitute a criminal offence and become a police matter. For example, online content may substantiate the offence of 'using a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence' (Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth) s. 474.17). School staff may contact their union or obtain personal legal advice if they feel that online content seriously impacts their reputation. Defamatory online content may give rise to litigation under the Defamation Act 2005 (Qld).

### **What about other people's privacy?**

If you upload photos of your children, be mindful of who might be in the background. You might be happy to share your child's successes with your friends and family via social media, but some parents are not. If you are tagging or naming students, consider that other parents may not want their child's name attached to images online.

### **What if I encounter problem content?**

Taking the following steps may help resolve the issue in a constructive way:

- refrain from responding
- take a screen capture or print a copy of the concerning online content
- if you consider problem content to be explicit, pornographic or exploitative of minors, you should keep a record of the URL of the page containing that content

but NOT print or share it. The URL can be provided to the school principal, or police, as needed for escalation of serious concerns

- block the offending user
- report the content to the social media provider.

### **Cybersafety and Reputation Management (CRM)**

The Department of Education employs a dedicated team of experts to assist in maintaining the integrity of the department's reputation with regards to cybersafety and reputation management issues, effectively leading the development and implementation of departmental cybersafety processes.

This team provides **direct support for schools** to respond to concerns of inappropriate online behaviour and misuse of information and communication technology.

The team provides a [guide for parents](#) with important information about cybersafety and cyberbullying, and suggestions about what you can do if your child is a target or responsible for inappropriate online behaviour.

The team has also developed a [Cyberbullying and reputation management](#) (Department employees only) resource to assist principals in incident management.

For more information about cybersafety sessions at your school, or for assistance with issues relating to online behaviour, contact the [team](#) (Department employees only).

### **Student Intervention and Support Services**

Ipswich West State Special School recognises the need to provide intervention and support to all students involved in incidents of bullying, including cyberbullying.

Students who have been subject or witness to bullying have access to a range of internal support staff, as identified in the Student Support Network section earlier in this document. Students are, however, also encouraged to approach any staff member with whom they feel comfortable sharing their concerns, regardless of their role in the school. All staff at Ipswich West State Special School are familiar with the response expectations to reports of bullying, and will act quickly to ensure students' concerns are addressed. Depending on the nature of the reported bullying incident, a formal plan of action may be developed and documented to support the implementation of strategies to assist the student.

Students who engage in bullying behaviours towards others will also be provided with support to assist them to use more socially acceptable and appropriate behaviours in their interactions. This includes counselling, social development programs, referral to mental health services or involvement in a restorative justice strategy. School disciplinary measures may also be used to reinforce the seriousness with which the community takes all incidents of bullying. These measures may include internal school suspension, withdrawal from social events or celebrations or more severe punishments such as suspension or exclusion from school.



# Cyberbullying response flowchart for school staff

## How to manage online incidents that impact your school

### Student protection

If at any point the principal forms a reasonable suspicion that a student has been harmed or is at risk of harm, they have a responsibility to respond in accordance with the [Student protection procedure](#).

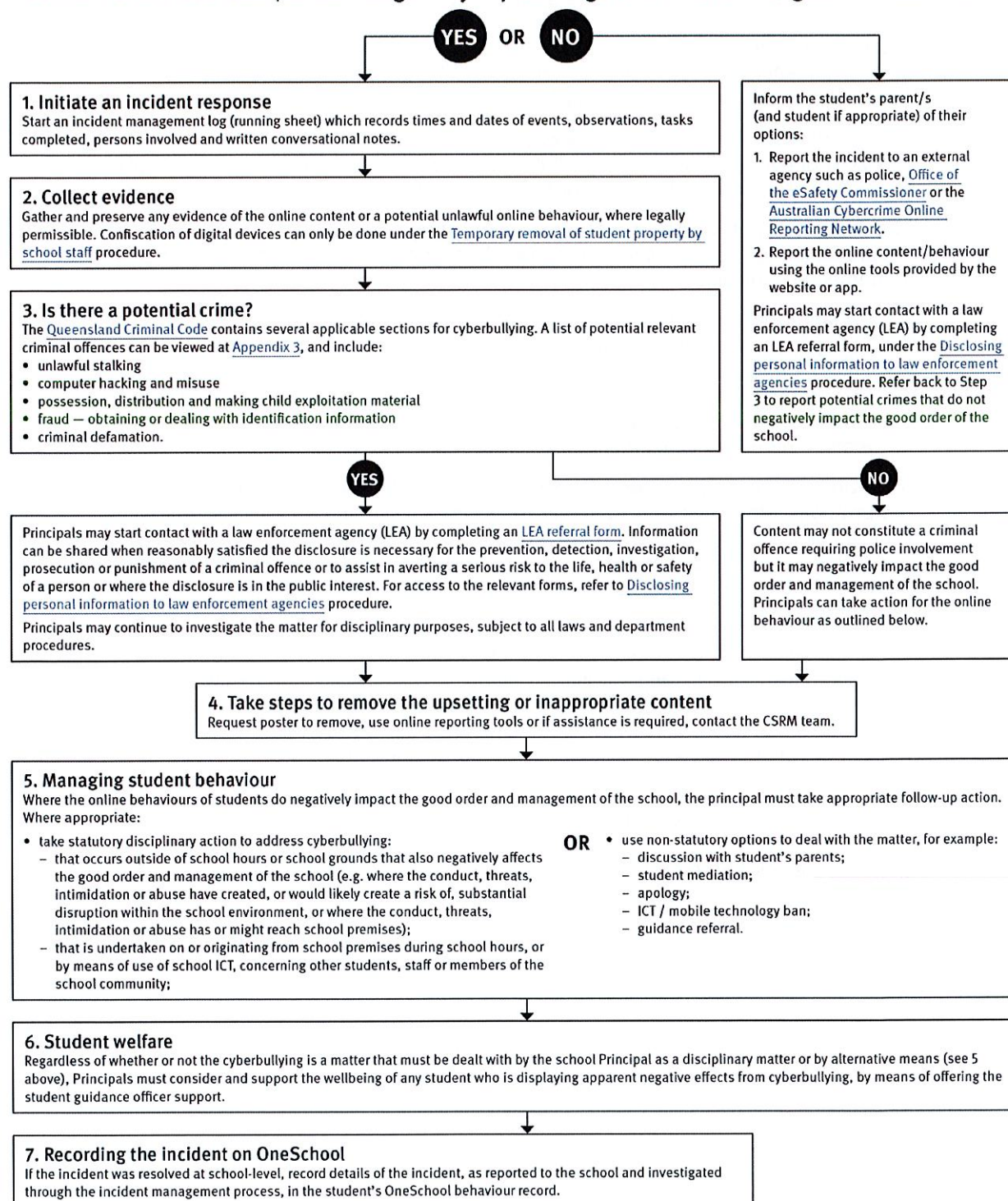
### Explicit images

If the investigation involves naked or explicit images of children, staff should not save, copy, forward or otherwise deal with the content, as per the [Temporary removal of student property by school staff procedure](#). This includes onto OneSchool records. Refer to the investigative process outlined in 'Responding to incidents involving naked or explicit images of children' from the [Online Incident management guidelines](#).

### Help

Refer to the [Online incident management guidelines](#) for more details, or if assistance is required, contact the Cybersecurity and Reputation Management (CSRM) team on 3034 5035 or [Cybersafety.ReputationManagement@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:Cybersafety.ReputationManagement@qed.qld.gov.au).

Does the online behaviour/incident negatively impact the good order and management of the school?





## Restrictive Practices

School staff at Ipswich West State Special School need to respond to student behaviour that presents a risk of physical harm to the student themselves or others. It is anticipated that most instances of risky behaviour can be de-escalated and resolved quickly. On some rarer occasions, a student's behaviour may continue to escalate and staff need to engage immediately with positive and proactive strategies aimed at supporting the student to manage their emotional arousal and behaviour.

In some very rare situations, where there is immediate risk of physical harm to the student or other people, and when all other alternative strategies have failed to reduce the risk, it may be necessary for staff to use restrictive practices.

The use of restrictive practices will always be as a last resort, when there is no other available option for reducing immediate risk to the student, staff or other people. Restrictive practices are not used for punishment or as a disciplinary measure.

The department's **Restrictive practices procedure** is written with consideration for the protection of everyone's human rights, health, safety and welfare. There are six fundamental principles:

1. Regard to the human rights of those students
2. Safeguards students, staff and others from harm
3. Ensures transparency and accountability
4. Places importance on communication and consultation with parents and carers
5. Maximises the opportunity for positive outcomes, and
6. Aims to reduce or eliminate the use of restrictive practices.

Very rarely restrictive practices will be planned and staff will employ, when necessary, pre-arranged strategies and methods (of physical restraint/ mechanical restraint/ clinical holding) which are based upon behaviour risk assessment or clinical health need and are recorded in advance. The use of planned strategies will only be where there is foreseeable immediate risk consistent with the **Restrictive practices procedure**.

Seclusion will not be used as a planned response and will only be used in serious circumstances for managing an unforeseeable situation in an emergency. It will be used for the shortest time possible and in a safe area that presents no additional foreseeable risk to the student. In such emergencies, a staff member will observe the student at all times and seclusion will cease as soon as possible.

Following the use of any restrictive practice, a focused review will help staff to understand how they responded to the risk in any incident that involved the use of a restrictive practice. Staff will consider whether there are other options for managing a similar situation in the future. This strategy works well for reducing the use of restrictive practices.

All incidents of restrictive practices will be recorded and reported in line with departmental procedures.



# Critical Incidents

It is important that all staff have a consistent understanding of how to respond to emergency situations or critical incidents involving severe unacceptable behaviour. This consistency ensures that actions taken are responsive to the safety and well-being of students and staff.

An **emergency situation or critical incident** is defined as an occurrence that is sudden, urgent, and usually unexpected, or an occasion requiring immediate action.

**Severe unacceptable behaviour** is defined as behaviour of such intensity, frequency, or duration that the physical safety and well-being of the student or others is likely to be placed at serious risk.

## Immediate Strategies

- Avoid escalating the unacceptable behaviour
  - Avoid shouting, cornering the student, moving into the student's space, touching or grabbing the student, sudden responses, sarcasm, becoming defensive, communicating anger and frustration through body language.
- Maintain calmness, respect and detachment
- Model the behaviour you want students to adopt, stay calm and controlled, use a serious measured tone, choose your language carefully, avoid humiliating the student, be matter of fact and avoid responding emotionally.
- Approach the student in a non-threatening manner
  - Move slowly and deliberately toward the situation or incident, speak privately to the student/s where possible, speak calmly and respectfully, minimise body language, keep a reasonable distance, establish eye level position, be brief, stay with the agenda, acknowledge cooperation, withdraw if the situation escalates.

## Reinforcement and Correction Strategies

- If the student starts displaying the appropriate behaviour briefly acknowledge their choice and re-direct other students' attention towards their usual work/activity.
- If the student continues with the unacceptable behaviour then remind them of the expected school behaviour and identify consequences of continued unacceptable behaviour.

## Follow Up Strategies

- Restore normal school operations as soon as possible.
- Provide post incident opportunities that include:
  - Assisting any distressed student/s to access appropriate support, e.g. Guidance Officer.
  - Assisting the individual student to identify the sequence of events that led to the unacceptable behaviour, pinpoint decision moments during the sequence of events, evaluate decisions made, and identify acceptable decision options for future situations.
  - Recording a reflection or individual learning plan to assist the student to develop a personal framework of expectations and appropriate actions.

