



TIWI COLLEGE



Behaviour Management Policy

Rationale:

This policy outlines the main behaviour expectations of the college. It provides an insight to the challenges of young Tiwi and associated behaviours. Our intention is to deal with student behaviour in a fair manner which promotes the school and Tiwi value of “Respect”.

Relationships are the cornerstone of our culture of Tiwi College.

Respect is used as our motto – in broad terms, respect of Tiwi and Western Cultures.

Aim:

Our student Code of Conduct is simple and reflects our College Core Values, whilst acknowledging the life journey of our students. It can be adapted slightly to reflect the clients within each class or Family Group Home.

Code of Conduct

Trust

- We will learn to trust one another
- We will listen to and trust people who are helping us learn
- We will help staff to trust us by our actions

Respect

- We will love ourselves
- We will respect one another
- We will respect the Tiwi College family

Empathy

- We will care for one another
- We will help others in need
- We will try to understand the point of view of other people

Mercy

- We will apologise when we do the wrong thing
- We will show mercy and understanding to those who have hurt us
- We will forgive



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Our Way:

Student management at Tiwi College begins with an understanding of our clients, the Young Tiwi. We have a whole school culture that is guided by the spirit of “Terra Equilibrium” – parity, walking together on a shared journey.



“Terra Equilibrium”

Anne McMaster 2010

We are the students’ *family away from family*. We strive to incorporate the ways of the Tiwi together with values of the Western world to shape expectations, methods and routine that result in our community of “Peaceful Picka”.

Collectively, our staff strive for a highly structured routine for the young Tiwi. All expectations and required behaviours are explained simply and explicitly. In terms of day-to-day operations, the young Tiwi should have no surprises. To assist us in this we use the approach of “*Calmer Classrooms*” – developed by the Victorian Office of the Child Safety Commissioner.

http://www.ocsc.vic.gov.au/downloads/calmer_classrooms.pdf

The staff of Tiwi College must quickly embrace an understanding of the home life of a percentage of our students. In terms of helping our students be work-ready, their life in the communities does little to assist. Thus the act of suspending a student must be carefully thought through as often this consequence serves little or no purpose.

An integral factor behind the Tiwi College behaviour management method is that of *prevention*.

We aim to show students how they are able to excel. We have a Strengths-Based approach toward schooling and extra-curricular programs. We have incentives programs that reward outstanding attendance and behaviour.

We have established Family Group Homes instead of boarding facilities, in order for the young Tiwi to experience the love and guidance of a married couple.

Our college counsellor regularly speaks to students regarding their lives and where they are placed in their life’s journeys.

We ensure our facilities are regularly maintained and cleaned. We aim for our students to be proud of Tiwi College.



TIWI COLLEGE



Implementation:

“Mana”

For the purposes of this document – Mana is a concept and word used to finish a ceremony, argument or simply a conversation between people. It provides a positive end point where people move on and everything is okay/good.

In all instances of poor behaviour, we engage those students affected and/or who are the perpetrators to confront the issues and be involved in taking responsibility of the actions and necessary consequences. This is a journey of empowerment for our student body.

For relatively minor incidences that revolve around disrespect, non – cooperation or a breakdown of trust, we use the concept of “Mana” to resolve issues. *Mana* is incorporated into Restorative Practices to re-establish the relationships that may be affected. The incorrect behaviour and the consequences are worked out using Tiwi staff and this is communicated explicitly to all involved.

For repeated incidences and those of a serious nature – for example physical violence, a no tolerance approach is used.

Once again, once at the appropriate time student the ramifications of the student’s actions are explicitly explained. A senior member of staff and our Tiwi Liaison person then communicates the event to family or families involved and a detention / suspension of some kind is likely.

Using our core value of Mercy, we provide the opportunity for students to regain the trust of community members through their actions.

All incidences are documented by Family Group Home Parents and Academic staff members and are collated and stored by the Assistant Principal.

There are no circumstances in which corporal punishment is tolerated at Tiwi College. We wish our students to feel safe and secure.

Appendix 1 Behaviour Management Incident Report