

Cherbourg State School

Student Code of Conduct 2020-2021

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 2020-2024

Uncontrolled copy. Refer to the Department of Education Policy and Procedure Register at http://pr.det.qld.gov.au/ to ensure you have the most current version of this document.

Purpose

Cherbourg State School is committed to providing a safe, respectful and disciplined learning environment for students and staff, where students have opportunities to engage in quality learning experiences and acquire values supportive of their lifelong wellbeing in a culturally sensitive manner.

The Cherbourg State School Student Code of Conduct sets out the responsibilities and processes we use in our school to promote a productive, 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, where all students are able to experience success and staff enjoy a safe workplace.

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Endorsement

Principal Name: Boyd McLean

Principal Signature: BMA

Date: 22nd of June 2022

P/C President and-or School Council Chair Name:

P/C President and-or School Council Chair Signature:

Date:

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Principal's Foreword

Introduction

Cherbourg State School has a proud history and strong community links. We pride ourselves on supporting every child's individual learning pathway. We believe that in order to support our students to be productive members of an ever-changing world we need them to be strong, smart and safe. These values are our foundations for success.

Cherbourg State School has three core values, I am;

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

- Ngaringa Taring We are Strong
- Ngaringa Biyangga Mau We are Smart
- Ngaringa Ya-our-Ngan'ya We are Safe

Our school expectations have been agreed upon and endorsed by all staff, students and our school community and Elders. They are aligned with the values, principles and expected standards outlined in Education Queensland's Code of School Behaviour.

These values have been used in the development of this Student Code of Conduct, with the aim of helping shape and build the skills of all our students to be confident, self-disciplined and kind to young people. Our school staff believe that communication and positive connections with other people are the most valuable skills our communities need, now and in to the future.

Cherbourg State School is a Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) school. This means that we take a learning approach that teaches behaviours that we feel are important not just in school but later in life. We recognise that as a collective all behaviours can be overcome if the three stakeholders of success are implemented. Parents supporting the school and the child, staff supporting the child and the parents and the students choosing to make positive behaviour choices. With all stakeholders working together, positive and productive behaviours are achieved. Our Student Code of Conduct provides an overview of the steps school staff take to educate students about these policies and how students are explicitly taught the expected behaviours. Finally, it details the consequences that may apply when students breach the expected standards of behaviour, including the use of suspension or exclusion.

I thank the students, teachers, parents and other members of the community for their work in bringing the Cherbourg State Student Code of Conduct together. Your interest and views shared through the process of developing this document have been invaluable. It provides a clear explanation of what we expect from students and how we will support them to meet our expectations.

Boyd McLean Principal Bvmac0@eq.edu.au



Elders and Community Statement of Support

This is to be finalised by both our school Elders group and key stakeholder groups within the Cherbourg community.



Learning and Behaviour Statement

All areas of Cherbourg State School are learning and teaching environments. We consider behaviour management to be an opportunity for valuable social learning as well as a means of maximising the success of academic education programs. Our school-wide framework for managing behaviour is based on Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL).

Our Student Code of Conduct outlines our system for facilitating positive behaviours, preventing problem behaviour and responding to unacceptable behaviours. Through our schoolwide process, shared expectations for behaviours for learning are delivered and reinforced by everyone, assisting Cherbourg State School to create and maintain a positive and productive learning and teaching environment.

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Our school expectations have been agreed upon and endorsed by all staff, students and our school community. They are aligned with the values, principles and expected standards outlined in Education Queensland's Code of School Behaviour.

The first step in facilitating standards of positive behaviour is communicating those standards to **all** students. At Cherbourg State School we emphasise the importance of directly teaching students the behaviours we want them to demonstrate at school. Communicating behavioural expectations is a form of universal behaviour support - a strategy directed towards **all** students which is designed to prevent problem behaviour and to provide a framework for responding to unacceptable behaviour.

A set of behavioural expectations in specific settings has been attached to each of our three school expectations. The Schoolwide Behaviour Expectations Matrix below outlines our agreed expectations and specific behavioural expectations in all school settings.

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

- Behaviour lessons conducted by classroom teachers;
- Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) Framework
- Reinforcement of learning from behaviour lessons at School Assemblies and during active supervision by staff during classroom and non-classroom activities.

Reinforcing expected school behaviour

At Cherbourg State School communication of our key messages about behaviour is backed up through reinforcement, which provides feedback for engaging in expected school behaviour. A formal recognition and monitoring system has been developed. This reinforcement system is designed to increase the quantity and quality of positive interactions between students and staff. All staff members are trained to give consistent and appropriate acknowledgement and rewards.



Student Wellbeing and Support Network

Students at Cherbourg State School are supported through positive reinforcement and a system of universal, targeted, and intensive behaviour support by:

- Success Coaches
- Clontarf
- Parents
- Teachers and Teacher Aides
- Deputy Principal
- Head of Curriculum
- HOSES

- Regional Support
- Administration Staff
- Guidance Officer
- Advisory Visiting Teachers
- Senior Guidance Officer
- Student welfare worker
- School Attendance Officers

External support is also available through the following government and community agencies:

- Disability Services Queensland
- Child and Youth Mental Health
- Community Health
- Department of Communities (Child Safety Services)
- Queensland Police Rangers

Student and staff wellbeing and support is provided by using the following approaches:

- Creating safe, supportive and inclusive environments
- Building the capacity of staff, students and the school community
- Developing strong systems for early intervention

Creating safe, supportive and inclusive environments:

- Fulltime TA in each classroom
- Teaching and Learning TAs x2 that provide additional support in classrooms
- Success Coaches x3 (employed fulltime)
- Wellbeing Officer (8am-2pm/ 5 days a week)
- Guidance Officer (5 days a week)
- STLAN (3 days a week)
- Student Attendance Officer Team x4 (employed fulltime)
- CLONTARF (Years 4-6 boys)
- Adopt-a-Cop/ Police Rangers (Monday afternoons 3-4pm for Years 4-6 girls)
- Clear whole-school expectations Behaviour Chart
- PBL Reward Currency Porci Dollars 2022
- Fortnightly PBL whole-school focus and lessons
- PBL Learning Walls
- Porci Shop (open daily at Second Break)
- PBL Rewards Days (twice a term end of weeks 5 & 10 for students that meet criteria)
- Yarning Circles (start of each session)
- Zones of Regulation check-ins (start of/during each session)
- Targeted Zones of Regulation lesson sessions with identified small groups/ individual students
- Yarn the Therapy Dog (1 day a week)
- School Wellbeing Garden
- Red Gate (Success Coach hub)
- Drumbeat
- Alternative lunchtime activities wellbeing room, music club, sport etc.
- School values/ motto signage in SAE and Wakka Wakka



- School values/ motto and fortnightly PBL focus stated on daily parades (end of every break/ start of every session) in Wakka Wakka and signed in AUSLAN
- Wellbeing Team staff breakfast BBQs and Morning Teas, raffles, social events, birthdays, appreciation, condolences for Sorry Business etc.

Building the capacity of staff, students and the school community:

- Leadership Team Principal, Deputy Principal, Head of Department (Curriculum), Head of Special Education (HOSE), Languages and Culture Community Teacher and Community Elder (employed as a TA)
- Professional Development opportunities (on-site, off-site, online)
- Annual Professional Development Plans (APDPs all staff)
- Staff Meetings using a three-week rotation
 – whole staff, school priorities teams (Wellbeing/ Curriculum and Pedagogy/ PBL – aligned to PSR/AIP), and roles (teachers, TAs, other paraprofessionals)
- Participating in community events i.e. ANZAC Day, "R U OK?" March, Bullying No Way March, No Domestic Violence March, NAIDOC Celebrations, Cherbourg Day etc
- Access relevant staff from the Centre for Learning and Wellbeing (CLAW)
- Regional SLP (1-day week) and AVT (1-2 days a fortnight)
- School Facebook
- Fortnightly Newsletter
- Weekly Celebration Parades
- Weekly school update with Cherbourg Radio
- Formal observations, planning and data meetings with DP/ HOD (Curriculum)/ HOSE
- "Many Schools Coming Together" Crossing-Cultures Cluster Day
- Cluster Year 6 Camp
- Cultural Camps (Years 4-6 boys and girls)

Developing strong systems for early intervention:

- Behaviour Management processes allow for multiple opportunities for teaching teams and administration to make contact and communicate/involve families to support with behaviour
- Weekly Leadership Team meetings
- Fortnightly Student Services meetings
- Stakeholder meetings
- Complex Case Meetings
- Individual Behaviour Plans (IBPs)
- Highly Individualised Curriculum Plans/ Individual Curriculum Plans/ Personalised Learning Records (HICs/ ICPs/ PLRs)
- "Yarning Time" (Three-way interviews with student, family and teacher)
- Partnerships with community organisations e.g. Cherbourg Police/ Cherbourg Hospital and Community Health/ CRAICCHS/ Gundoo/ IKC/ Cherbourg Radio/ Laurel Place
- Early Years Partnership Committee
- School Elders & Wakka Wakka Languages Elders meetings
- NCCD data collection tool (annual)
- Transition to Highschool (Cluster with MSHS)
- Transition to Kindy and/or Prep with Gundoo and CSS Kindy
- Principal meetings with Cherbourg Shire Aboriginal Council



Cherbourg State 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 through the school, including sporting activities and excursions.

PBL is an evidence-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 Cherbourg State 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.

The development of the Cherbourg State 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.

PBL Expectations

Our staff 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 five Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) expectations in place for students, being **Strong: Ngaringa Taring, Smart: Ngaringa Biyangga Mau, Smart: Ngaringa Ta-our Ngan'ya**

Students

Below are examples of what these PBL expectations look like for students across the school. In addition, each classroom will have their own set of examples to help students and visitors understand the expectations and meet the standards we hold for everyone at Exemplar State College.

Parents and staff



The table below explains the PBL expectations for parents when visiting our school and the standards we commit to as staff.

Strong

What we expect to see from you	What you can expect from us		
You make an appointment to speak with the class teacher or principal to discuss any matters relating to your child.	We will respond as soon as practicable to your request for an appointment and negotiate a mutually agreeable date and time with you.		
You are respectful in your conversations at home about school staff.	We will ensure positive behaviours are role modelled for all students.		
You leave and collect your child from the designated area at school.	We will give clear guidance about a designated area for parents to leave and collect students.		

Smart

What we expect to see from you	What you can expect from us			
You respect the obligation of staff to maintain student and family privacy.	We will maintain confidentiality about information relating to your child and family.			
You ensure your children attend school every day and notify the school promptly of any absences or changes in contact details.	We will create a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for every student.			
You recognise people are different and will be non-judgemental, fair and equitable to others in the school community.	We will welcome and celebrate a diverse school community with recognition of significant social, cultural and historical events.			

Safe

What we expect to see from you	What you can expect from us		
	We will create a safe environment that explicitly teachers positive safe behaviours.		

Differentiated and Explicit Teaching

Cherbourg State 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 Cherbourg State School vary what students are taught, how they are taught and how students can demonstrate what they know as part of this differentiated approach to behaviour. These 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.

There are three main layers to differentiation, as illustrated in the diagram below. This model is the same used for academic and pedagogical differentiation.



These three layers map directly to the tiered approach discussed earlier in the Learning and Behaviour section. For example, in the PBL framework, Tier 1 is differentiated and explicit teaching for all students, Tier 2 is focussed teaching for identified students and Tier 3 is intensive teaching for a small number of students. Each layer provides progressively more personalised supports for students.

Every classroom in our school uses the PBL Expectations Matrix, illustrated below, as a basis for developing their behaviour standards. Using this matrix, the class teacher works with all students to explain exactly what each of the expectations look, sound and feel like in their classroom. The completed matrix is on display in every classroom, used as the basis of teaching expectations throughout the year and revisited regularly to address any new or emerging issues.



Cherbourg State School PBL Expectations Matrix



						S SMART
	All settings	Classroom	Playground & Tuckshop	Toilets	Dining Hall	Bus/ Excursion
NgringTaing	We care for and use equipment safely We talk kindly to everyone. We treat everyone with respect We are proud of who we are and what we do.	We ask teachers for help when we need it We wait patiently We keep our room tidy	We play in approved areas – under A block, covered area, Porci and behind Redgate room. We wait patiently in a line for tuckshop service We eat in the Dining Hall or under A Block	We ask an adult for permission to go to the toilet during class time We return to class straight away.	We wait outside the dining hall for instructions from staff. We behave respectfully in the Dining Hall	• We wait patiently in line
Ngaringa Biyangga Mau	We listen and follow directions. We come to school every day, prepared and ready to learn. We make choices which will help us learn	We are ready to learn at the second bell We participate in class activities We use respectful voices inside	We go to the toilet and get a drink when the first bell rings We share equipment and play areas. We take turns when playing with others.	• We report any issues to adults	We est all our lunch We place our scraps in the scrap bucket We place our bowl/plate and spoon/fork in the bin.	We waited patiently to be counted on/off the bus We apply our sunscreen correctly and put it away when finished
Ngaringa Ya-cur Ngari ya We are Safe	We use our bodies safely We look after each other We seek help from adults within the school We tell an adult about anything dangerous	We ask our teachers for permission to leave the classroom We sit on chairs with our feet on the floor We enter and exit the classroom respectfully We move safely in the classroom	We place our rubbish in the bin. We play with covered shoes on our feet	We allow for the privacy of others We flush the toilet when finished We wash our hands with soap	We sit at the tables with our feet on the floor We use respectful voices We move safely We put up our hand and wait quietly to leave	We walk around the poor We sit on the seats and wear our seatbelts We wait/play in the undercover sea for the bus to arrive

Consideration of Individual Circumstances

To ensure alignment with the Code of School Behaviour when applying consequences, the individual circumstances and actions of the student and the needs and rights of school community members are considered at all times.

Cherbourg State School considers the individual circumstances of students when applying support and consequences by:

- promoting an environment which is responsive to the diverse needs of its students
- establishing procedures for applying fair, equitable and non-violent consequences for infringement of the code ranging from the least intrusive sanctions to the most stringent
- recognising and taking into account students' age, gender, disability, cultural background, socioeconomic situation and their emotional state
- recognising the rights of all students to:
 - express opinions in an appropriate manner and at the appropriate time
 - work and learn in a safe environment regardless of their age, gender, disability, cultural background or socio-economic situation, and
 - \circ $\;$ receive adjustments appropriate to their learning and/or impairment needs.



Focused Teaching

All students in any school or classroom 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.

Support staff, including teachers with specialist expertise in learning, language or development, work collaboratively with class teachers at Cherbourg State School to provide focused teaching. Focused teaching is aligned to the PBL Expectations Matrix, and student progress is monitored by the classroom teacher/s to identify those who:

- no longer require the additional support
- require ongoing focussed teaching
- require intensive teaching.

Cherbourg State School has a range of Student Support Network staff in place to help arrange and deliver focused teaching to students who need more support to meet expectations. In addition, the school invests in the following evidence-informed programs to address specific skill development for some students:

- Success Coaches
- Functional Based Assessment.
- Clontarf Foundation
- Police Rangers

For more information about these programs, please speak with the Deputy Principal, Carly Lindbeck.

Intensive Teaching

Research evidence shows that even in an effective, well-functioning school there will always be approximately 5% of the student population who require intensive teaching to achieve behavioural expectations. Intensive teaching involves frequent and explicit instruction, with individuals or in small groups, to develop mastery of basic behavioural concepts, skills and knowledge.

Some students may require intensive teaching for a short period, for particular behaviour skills. Other students may require intensive teaching for a more prolonged period. Decisions about the approach will be made based



on data collected from their teacher or teachers, and following consultation with the student's family.

For a small number of students who continue to display behaviours that are deemed complex and challenging, then individualised, function-based behaviour assessment and support plans and multi-agency collaboration may be provided to support the student. This approach will seek to address the acute impact of barriers to learning and participation faced by students who are negotiating a number of complex personal issues.

Students who require intensive teaching will be assigned an individual mentor at the school that will oversee the coordination of their program, communicate with stakeholders and directly consult with the student.



Legislative Delegations

Legislation

In this section of the Cherbourg State School Student Code of Conduct are links to relevant legislation that inform the overall Student discipline procedure.

- Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld)
- <u>Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld)</u>
- <u>Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992</u>
- <u>Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005</u>
- Criminal Code Act 1899 (Qld)
- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006
- Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017
- Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)
- Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld)
- Judicial Review Act 1991 (Qld)
- <u>Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld)</u>
- Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 (Qld)
- Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)
- Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2011 (Cwth)

Delegations

Under the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, state school principals are responsible for "controlling and regulating student discipline in the school".

Principals are afforded a number of **non-delegable powers** to assist them to meet this obligation, including the authority to suspend, exclude or cancel the enrolment of a student at the school. These decision-making responsibilities cannot be delegated to other staff in the school, such as deputy principals.

The details of these responsibilities are outlined in the legislative instruments of delegation and instruments of authorisation provided below:

- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 Director-General's delegations
- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 Minister's delegations
- <u>Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 Director-General's</u> <u>authorisations</u>
- <u>Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006 Minister's</u> <u>delegations</u>
- <u>Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017 Director-General's</u> <u>delegations</u>



Disciplinary Consequences

The disciplinary consequences model used at Cherbourg State School follows the same differentiated approach used in the proactive teaching and support of student behavioural expectations.

The majority of students will be confident and capable of meeting established expectations that are clear, explicitly taught and practised. In-class corrective feedback, sanctions and rule reminders may be used by teachers to respond to low-level or minor problem behaviours.

Some students will need additional support, time and opportunities to practise expected behaviours. Approximately 15% of the student population may experience difficulty with meeting the stated expectations, and even with focussed teaching, in-class corrective feedback, sanctions and rule reminders continue to display low-level problem behaviour. A continued pattern of low-level behaviour can interfere with teaching and learning for the whole class, and a decision may be needed by the class teacher to refer the student to the school administration team immediately for determination of a disciplinary consequence.

For a small number of students, approximately 2-5%, a high level of differentiated support or intensive teaching is required to enable them to meet the behavioural expectations. This may be needed throughout the school year on a continuous basis. The determination of the need will be made by the principal in consultation with staff and other relevant stakeholders. On occasion the behaviour of a student may be so serious, such as causing harm to other students or to staff, that the principal may determine that an out of school suspension or exclusion is necessary as a consequence for the student's behaviour. Usually this course of action is only taken when the behaviour is either so serious as to warrant immediate removal of the student for the safety of others, and no other alternative discipline strategy is considered sufficient to deal with the problem behaviour.

The differentiated responses to problem behaviour can be organised into three tiers, with increasing intensity of support and consequences to address behaviour that endangers others or causes major, ongoing interference with class or school operations.

Differentiated

Class teacher provides in-class or in-school disciplinary responses to lowlevel or minor problem behaviour. This may include:

- Pre-correction (e.g. "Remember, walk quietly to your seat")
- Non-verbal and visual cues (e.g. posters, hand gestures)
- Receiving porci dollars
- Whole class practising of routines
- Ratio of 5 positive to 1 negative commentary or feedback to class
- Corrective feedback (e.g. "Hand up when you want to ask a question")



- Rule reminders (e.g. "When the bell goes, stay seated until I dismiss you")
- Explicit behavioural instructions (e.g. "Pick up your pencil")
- Proximity control
- Tactical ignoring of inappropriate behaviour (not student)
- Revised seating plan and relocation of student/s
- Individual positive reinforcement for appropriate behaviour
- Classwide incentives
- Reminders of incentives or class goals
- Redirection
- Low voice and tone for individual instructions
- Give 30 second 'take-up' time for student/s to process instruction/s
- Reduce verbal language
- Break down tasks into smaller chunks
- Provide positive choice of task order (e.g. "Which one do you want to start with?")
- Prompt student to take a break or time away in class
- Model appropriate language, problem solving and verbalise thinking process (e.g. "I'm not sure what is the next step, who can help me?")
- Provide demonstration of expected behaviour
- Peer consequence (e.g. corrective feedback to influential peer demonstrating same problem behaviour)
- Private discussion with student about expected behaviour
- Reprimand for inappropriate behaviour
- Warning of more serious consequences (e.g. removal from classroom)
- Detention

Focussed

Class teacher is supported by other school-based staff to address in-class problem behaviour. This may include:

- Functional Behaviour Assessment
- Individual student behaviour support strategies (e.g. Student behaviour plan)
- Targeted skills teaching in small group
- Token economy
- Detention
- Behavioural contract
- Counselling and guidance support
- Self-monitoring plan
- Check in Check Out strategy
- Teacher coaching and debriefing
- Referral to Student Support Network for team based problem solving
- Stakeholder meeting with parents and external agencies

Intensive



School leadership team work in consultation with Student Support Network to address persistent or ongoing serious problem behaviour. This may include:

- Functional Behaviour Assessment based individual support plan
- Complex case management and review
- Stakeholder meeting with parents and external agencies including regional specialists
- Temporary removal of student property (e.g. mobile phone)
- Short term suspension (up to 10 school days)
- Long term suspension (up to 20 school days)
- Charge related suspension (student has been charged with a serious criminal offence is suspended from school until the charge has been dealt with by the relevant justice authorities)
- Suspension pending exclusion (student is suspended from school pending a decision by the Director-General or delegate (principal) about their exclusion from school)
- Exclusion (student is excluded from a particular state school site, a group of state schools or all state schools in Queensland for a defined period of time or permanently)
- Cancellation of enrolment for students older than compulsory school age who refuse to participate in the educational program provided at the school.

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 Cherbourg State 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 schools 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 Cherbourg State School may 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/s, 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.

It is not mandatory for the student or their parents to attend a re-entry meeting. It may be offered as a support for the student to assist in their successful re-engagement in school following suspension.

Arrangements

The invitation to attend the re-entry meeting will be communicated via telephone and in writing, usually via email. Re-entry meetings are short, taking less than 10 minutes, and kept small with only the Principal or their delegate attending with the student and their parent/s.

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 family. If additional items are raised for discussion, a separate arrangement should be made to meet with the parent/s at a later date and time. This meeting should be narrowly 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
- Offer information about supports available (e.g. guidance officer)
- 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. The inclusion of support staff, such as guidance officers or Community Education Counsellors, may also offer important advice to ensure a successful outcome to the re-entry meeting.



Relate problem behaviours to expected school behaviours

When responding to problem behaviours, staff members ensure that students understand the relationship of the problem behaviour to expected school behaviour.

Should a problem 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 problem behaviour

Cherbourg State School makes systematic efforts to prevent problem student behaviour by teaching and reinforcing expected behaviours on an ongoing basis. When unacceptable behaviour occurs, students experience predictable consequences. Our school seeks to ensure that responses to unacceptable behaviour are consistent and proportionate to the nature of the behaviour.

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

Students also undertake lessons in how to respond appropriately when other students display problem behaviour, and the courteous way to respond when a staff member redirects their behaviour or consequences are applied for problem behaviour.

Minor and major behaviours

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

- **Minor** problem behaviour is handled by staff members at the time it happens.
- Major problem behaviour is referred to the school Administration team, either directly or through the PBL process

Minor behaviours are those that:

- are minor breeches of the school expectations;
- 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 problem behaviours; and
- do not require involvement of specialist support staff or Administration.

Minor problem behaviours may result in the following consequences:

 a minor consequence that is logically connected to the problem behaviour, such as complete removal from an activity or event for a specified period of time, partial removal (time away – Thinking Chair), individual meeting with the student, apology, buddy class, restitution or detention for work completion

Major behaviours are those that:

- significantly violate the rights of others;
- put others / self at risk of harm; and
- require the involvement of school Administration.

Major problem behaviours may result in the following consequences:



School Policies

Cherbourg State 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 and students. 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.

In determining what constitutes a reasonable time to retain student property, the principal or state school staff will consider:

- the condition, nature or value of the property
- the circumstances in which the property was removed
- the safety of the student from whom the property was removed, other students or staff members
- good management, administration and control of the school.

The 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.

The following items are explicitly prohibited at Cherbourg State School and will be removed if found in a student's possession:

- illegal items or weapons (e.g. guns, knives*, throwing stars, brass knuckles, chains)
- *imitation guns or weapons*
- potentially dangerous items (e.g. blades, rope)
- drugs** (including tobacco)
- alcohol
- aerosol deodorants or cans (including spray paint)
- explosives (e.g. fireworks, flares, sparklers)
- flammable solids or liquids (e.g. fire starters, mothballs, lighters)



- poisons (e.g. weed killer, insecticides)
- inappropriate or offensive material (e.g. racist literature, pornography, extremist propaganda).

* No knives of any type are allowed at school, including flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives, star knives, butter knives, fruit knives or craft knives, or any item that can be used as a weapon, for example a chisel. Knives needed for school activities will be provided by the school, and the use of them will be supervised by school staff. In circumstances where students are required to have their own knives or sharp tools for particular subjects or vocational courses, the school will provide information about the procedures for carrying and storing these items at school.

** The administration of medications to students by school staff is only considered when a prescribing health practitioner has determined that it is necessary or when there is no other alternative in relation to the treatment of a specific health need. Schools require medical authorisation to administer any medication to students (including over-the-counter medications such as paracetamol or alternative medicines).

Responsibilities

State school staff at Cherbourg State School:

- do not require the student's consent to search school property such as lockers, desks or laptops that are supplied to the student through the school;
- may seize a student's bag where there is suspicion that the student has a dangerous item (for example, a knife) in their school bag, prior to seeking consent to search from a parent or calling the police;
- consent from the student or parent is required to examine or otherwise deal with the temporarily removed student property. For example, staff who temporarily remove a mobile phone from a student are not authorised to unlock the phone or to read, copy or delete messages stored on the phone;
- there may, however, be emergency circumstances where it is necessary to search a student's property without the student's consent or the consent of the student's parents (e.g. to access an EpiPen for an anaphylactic emergency);
- consent from the student or parent is required to search the person of a student (e.g. pockets or shoes). If consent is not provided and a search is considered necessary, the police and the student's parents should be called to make such a determination.

Parents/Carers of students at Cherbourg State School

- ensure your children do not bring property onto school grounds or other settings used by the school (e.g. camp, sporting venues) that:
 - is prohibited according to the Cherbourg State School Student Code of Conduct
 - o is illegal
 - o puts the safety or wellbeing of others at risk
 - does not preserve a caring, safe, supportive or productive learning environment
 - o does not maintain and foster mutual respect;



 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.

Students of Cherbourg State School

- do not bring property onto school grounds or other settings used by the school (e.g. camp, sporting venues) that:
 - is prohibited according to the Cherbourg State School Code of Conduct
 - o is illegal
 - o puts the safety or wellbeing of others at risk
 - does not preserve a caring, safe, supportive or productive learning environment
 - o does not maintain and foster mutual respect;
- collect their property as soon as possible when advised by the Principal or state school staff it is available for collection.

Use of mobile phones and other devices by students

Students are not to have mobile phones at Cherbourg State School.



Preventing and responding to bullying

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 of 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 Cherbourg State School our staff will work to quickly respond to any matters raised of this nature in collaboration with students and parents.

The following flowchart explains the actions Cherbourg State School teachers/staff 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 that the indicative timeframes will vary depending on the professional judgment of teachers who receive the bullying complaint and their assessment of immediate risk to student/s

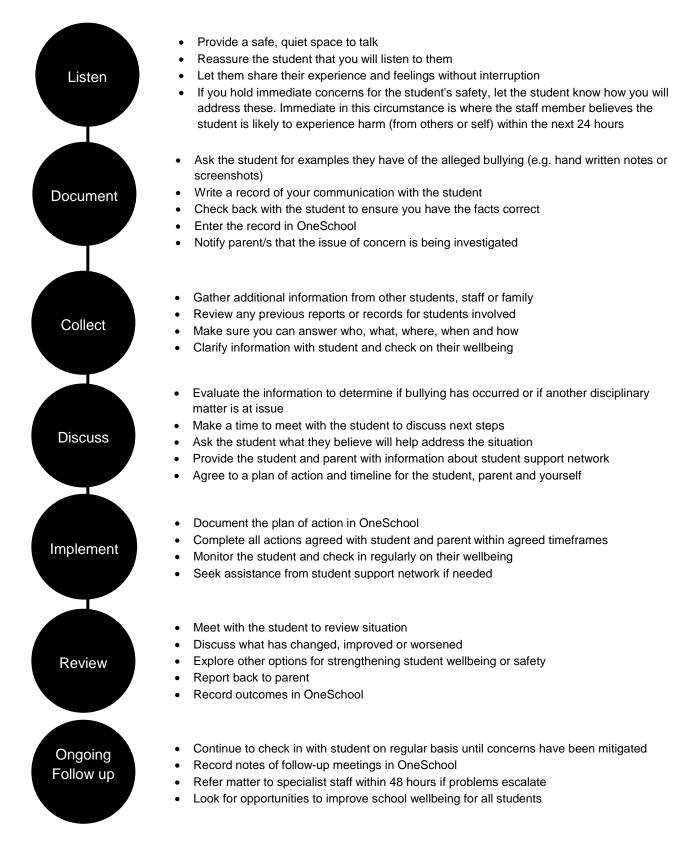
Cherbourg State School Bullying response flowchart for teachers

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. It is expected to take no longer than 3 days, except under exceptional circumstances.



Key contacts for students and parents to report bullying:

Prep to Year 6 – Class teacher





Appropriate use of social media

The department acknowledges the growing popularity of social media both as a communication and educational tool and supports its appropriate use. It also acknowledges the potential for damage to be caused (either directly or indirectly) to students, families and staff through the inappropriate use of social media. Students must understand they are responsible for the content they publish on social media platforms so it is important they understand what is expected of them while using social media.

Cyberbullying is treated at Cherbourg State School with the same level of seriousness as in-person bullying. The major difference with cyberbullying however, is that unlike in-person bulling, 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 regular 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 <u>Office of the e-Safety Commissioner</u> or the Queensland Police Service.

Students enrolled at Cherbourg State 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, Andrew Shaw.

Student Intervention and Support Services

Cherbourg State 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 Cherbourg State 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 consequences 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 <u>Student</u> protection procedure.

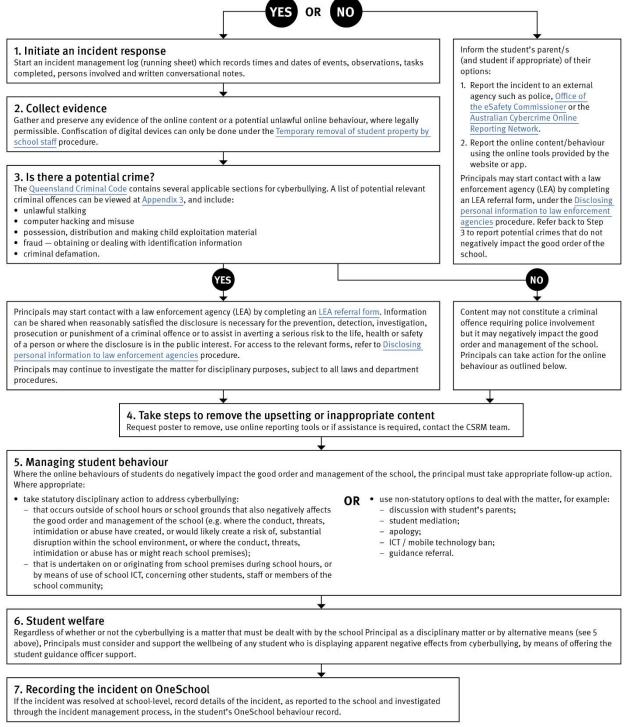
Explicit images

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 <u>Online Incident</u> management guidelines.

Help

Refer to the <u>Online incident management</u> <u>guidelines</u> for more details, or if assistance is required, contact the Cybersafety and Reputation Management (CSRM)team on 3034 5035 or Cybersafety.ReputationManagement@qed.qld. gov.au.

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





Restrictive Practices

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.

Physical Intervention

Staff may make legitimate use of physical intervention if all non-physical interventions have been exhausted and a student is:

- physically assaulting another student or staff member; or
- posing an immediate danger to him/herself or to others.

Appropriate physical intervention may be used to ensure that Cherbourg State School's duty of care to protect students and staff from foreseeable risks of injury is met. The use of physical intervention is only considered appropriate where the immediate safety of others is threatened and the strategy is used to prevent injury.

Physical intervention can involve coming between students, blocking a student's path, leading a student by the hand/arm, shepherding a student by placing a hand in the centre of the upper back, removing potentially dangerous objects and, in extreme situations, using more forceful restraint.

It is important that all staff understand:

- physical intervention cannot be used as a form of punishment;
- physical intervention must not be used when a less severe response can effectively resolve the situation and the underlying function of the behaviour.

Physical intervention is not to be used as a response to:

- property destruction;
- school disruption;
- refusal to comply;
- verbal threats; and
- leaving a classroom or the school, unless student safety is clearly threatened.

Any physical intervention made must:

- be reasonable in the particular circumstances;
- be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident;
- always be the minimum force needed to achieve the desired result; and
- take into account the age, stature, disability, understanding and gender of the student.

The department's **<u>Restrictive practices procedure</u>** 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 **<u>Restrictive</u> <u>practices procedure</u>**.

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 school staff have a consistent understanding of how to respond in emergencies that seriously endanger students or others. This consistency ensures that appropriate actions are taken to ensure that both students and staff are kept safe.

A **emergency situation or critical incident** is defined as an occurrence that is sudden, urgent, and usually unexpected, or an occasion requiring immediate action (e.g. in the community, on the road). The aim in these situations is to bring the behaviour of the student under rapid and safe control. It is not a time to try and to punish or discipline the student; it is a crisis management period only.

Severe problem behaviour is defined as behaviour of such intensity, frequency, or duration that the physical safety of the student or others is likely to be placed in serious jeopardy.

Staff should follow the documented plan for any student involved in regular critical incidents, which should be saved and available for staff to review in OneSchool.

For unexpected critical incidents, staff should use basic defusing techniques:

- 1. Avoid escalating the problem 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Approach the student in a non-threatening manner: Move slowly and deliberately toward the problem situation, 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.
- 4. Follow through: 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 problem behaviour, then remind them of the expected school behaviour and identify consequences of continued unacceptable behaviour.



Debrief: At an appropriate time when there is low risk of re-escalation, help the 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.

Related Procedures and Guidelines

These are related procedures or guidelines which school staff use to inform decisions and actions around matters associated with students wellbeing, behaviour and learning. *This may include reference to*

- Cancellation of enrolment
- Complex case management
- Customer complaints management policy and procedure
- Disclosing personal information to law enforcement agencies
- Enrolment in state primary, secondary and special schools
- Hostile people on school premises, wilful disturbance and trespass
- Inclusive education
- Police and Child Safety Officer interviews and searches with students
- Restrictive practices
- Refusal to enrol Risk to safety or wellbeing
- Student discipline
- Student dress code
- Student protection
- Supporting students' mental health and wellbeing
- Temporary removal of student property by school staff
- Use of ICT systems
- Using mobile devices



Resources

- Australian Professional Standards for Teachers
- Behaviour Foundations professional development package (school employees only)
- Bullying. No Way!
- <u>eheadspace</u>
- Kids Helpline
- Office of the eSafety Commissioner
- Parent and community engagement framework
- Parentline
- Queensland Department of Education School Discipline
- Raising Children Network
- Student Wellbeing Hub



Conclusion

Cherbourg State School staff are committed to ensuring every student is supported to feel safe, welcome and valued in our school. There may, however, be occasions where parents need to raise a concern or make a complaint about an issue you feel is adversely affecting their child's education.

All Queensland state schools are committed to ensuring that all complaints whether they relate to a school staff member or a school's operations - are dealt with in a fair and equitable manner. As a parent or carer, you can express dissatisfaction with the service or action of the Department of Education or its staff, including decisions made or actions taken in a school and/or by the local regional office.

As a complainant, it is your responsibility to:

- give us a clear idea of the issue or concern and your desired solution
- provide all the relevant information when making the complaint
- understand that addressing a complaint can take time
- cooperate respectfully and understand that unreasonable, abusive, or disrespectful conduct will not be tolerated
- let us know if something changes, including if help is no longer needed.

The Department of Education may not proceed with your complaint if your conduct is unreasonable.

In most instances, staff members are told of complaints made about them and offered the right of reply. A complainant also has the right to have a support person throughout the process.

The following three-step approach assists parents and school staff in reaching an outcome that is in the best interests of the student:

1. Early resolution: discuss your complaint with the school

The best place to raise any concerns is at the point where the problem or issue arose. You can make an appointment at the school to discuss your complaint with your child's teacher or the principal. You are also welcome to lodge your complaint in writing or over the phone. You can also make a complaint through <u>QGov</u>.

Complaints may be lodged by telephone, writing or in electronic format. Email addresses can be accessed through the <u>schools directory</u>.

2. Internal review: contact the local Regional Office

If, after taking the early resolution step, you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your complaint or how the complaint was handled, you can ask the local <u>regional office</u> to conduct a review. You need to submit a <u>Request for internal</u> <u>review form</u> within 28 days of receiving the complaint outcome.

3. External review: contact a review authority if you are dissatisfied after the internal review, you may wish to contact a review authority, such as the Queensland Ombudsman, and request an



independent, external review. More information about external review options is available at <u>www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au</u>.

Some matters need to be handled in a different way to school matters and will be referred to other areas in the department. These include:

- issues about harm, or risk of harm, to a student attending a state school, which must be managed in accordance with the <u>Student protection procedure.</u>
- complaints about corrupt conduct, public interest disclosures; or certain decisions made under legislation, which will be dealt with as outlined in the <u>Excluded complaints factsheet.</u>

