

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT POLICY

DATE OF REVIEW OF POLICY:
April 2018

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:
September 2019



AMBERFIELD
COLLEGE

Review members:

- Ms L van Vuuren – Academic director
- Ms K Panayotakis – Director of Amberfield College

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Regium Schools has a no corporal punishment view

2. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- To ensure that all teachers are aware of and understand the policy of no corporal punishment
- To ensure that all teachers are aware of the consequences of any form of corporal punishment

3. POLICY PRINCIPLES

Corporal punishment in this context is not just about caning but also refers to an assault on a person in any manner whatsoever. It also refers to violent shaking, torture, kicking, pinching, pulling of ears, poking with a finger, using a stick / cane / belt or any object designed to threaten learners, or any other physical act which may cause discomfort to the learner. In addition to the above a teacher may not:

- make any form of physical contact with a learner
- push or shove a learner
- kick or hit a learner
- hit or smack a learner with any object
- throw any object at a learner
- verbally abuse a learner or their family members for example by saying "you are stupid" or "you look like a monkey"
- make any abusive remark to the learner

The prohibition of corporal punishment is not intended to encourage ill-discipline or disorder in school. Instead, this is intended to encourage and inculcate a culture of non-violence; of resolving conflict through dialogue and discussion; of instilling a sense of responsibility; self-discipline and self-motivation amongst learners at the school. It is believed that this move will go some way in preparing our learners to be tomorrow's parents who will embrace the principles of non-violence, non-racialism, and democracy, and thereby give practical meaning to the progressive constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

4. CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ADHERING TO POLICY

Section 10 (2) of the South African Schools' Act (SASA) states:

"Any person who contravenes subsection (1) is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a sentence which could be imposed for assault."

Educational personnel must take note that the institution of criminal proceedings against him/her does not prevent Regium Schools or the Department of Education from instituting additional disciplinary proceedings against him/her in terms of the Employment of Educators' Act (1998) and other relevant Acts.

- In accordance with the Regium Schools conduct manual the use of any corporal punishment will lead to immediate dismissal
- Any form of corporal punishment is against the law of the country and may lead to the arrest and prosecution of the individual

5. AMENDMENTS TO POLICY

The School reserves its right to deviate from this policy if it deems it necessary or appropriate and to amend this policy from time to time in accordance with any changed policy considerations of the School or legal developments.