

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT POLICY

DATE OF REVIEW OF POLICY:
April 2018

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:
September 2019



AMBERFIELD
COLLEGE

Review members:

- L van Vuuren – Academic director
- Ms K Panayotakis – Executive Principal
- Ms Bronwen Derbyshire – Principal
- Mr Nico Liebenberg – Discipline Manager
- Ms S Bulwan - Discipline Manager

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Amberfield College 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.

Any form of corporal punishment is taboo. Corporal punishment is another form of assault and is in general considered as any wilful, unlawful infringement of the bodily integrity of a person (or learner). This includes the following actions:

- hitting a learner with a hand or object;
- hitting a learner with a hand or object;
- throwing objects at a learner;
- forcing children to stay in uncomfortable positions;
- denying child meals, the use of the toilet;
- forcing a learner to eat or drink something against his/her will;
- denying a learner shelter from heat or cold;
- kicking, pinching, pushing, scratching, pulling the hair of a learner, etc.
- verbally abuse a learner or their family members by saying "you are stupid" or "you look like a monkey"
- make any abusive remark to a learner

The core factors that should always be kept in mind are 'reasonableness' and 'lawfulness.' We can only apply discipline in line with the school's code of conduct. Any actions not endorsed by the code of conduct could possibly expose you to disciplinary measures.

Amberfield College staff should take the following into account in dealing with a disciplinary situation in a classroom, where the staff member is being provoked, and confronted with challenging, defiant behaviour:

- do not raise your voice or shout – it is a sign of being out of control and your behaviour as a role model should provide an example to learners of how a conflict situation and aggression should be dealt with. Shouting provokes anger, fear and anxiety instead of trust. Anger, fear and anxiety are circumstances in which effective learning and teaching cannot take place. It might temporarily change behaviour, but does not have a lasting positive effect;
- do not enforce an immediate consequence such as expecting the learner to apologise or explain his/her behaviour;
- do not corner a learner, move into his/her personal space, or touch an angry learner;
- do not degrade, insult, humiliate or embarrass a learner, especially not in front of his/her peers;
- avoid aggressive, accusatory body language and facial expressions;
- avoid using sarcasm or attacking a learner's character;
- avoid being demanding, commanding, dominating;

- avoid comparing learners to other siblings or students;
- avoid throwing temper tantrums;
- avoid double standards and favouritism;
- avoid generalisations and unsubstantiated accusations;
- avoid bribery, pleading or nagging;
- avoid holding grudges. Start every day on a new page.

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; selfdiscipline 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 Amberfield College 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