

## Policy 50: Student Behavior

### DEFINITION:

For this policy, students' behavior refers to students' responses to a number of daily life situations and activities, such as the appropriateness or inappropriateness of their words, mannerisms, attitudes and actions toward each other or toward the Teaching Faculty or other members of the wider School community.

### PURPOSE

- To promote positive student behavior in Schools.
- To set out ADEK's requirement that all Schools regularly review a Behavior Policy which makes clear to all students and their Parents/Guardians the School's expectations of students' behavior and how the School will deal with any misconduct

### Reinforcing Positive Student Behavior

- Schools shall adopt strategies and frameworks that recognize, reward and reinforce positive behavior, and shall not rely only on a set of rules and punishments for dealing with student misconduct.
- Schools shall consider the following important co-dependent factors for positive student behavior:
  - **Heritage and culture:** a sense of the behavioral values and principles that address the UAE's culture and traditions.
  - **Positive School environment:** a School environment that is welcoming, caring, safe, enriching, professional, and respectful to students.
  - **Management of student behavior:** by using role models from students' families, teachers, and all other staff, and through maintaining an effective and consistent system for shaping and managing student behavior appropriately based on age and gender.
  - **Partnerships with Parents/Guardians and the local community:** active involvement of Parents/Guardians and strong community partnerships.

### Managing Students' Misconduct

- Schools shall use the appropriate guidance and disciplinary actions to encourage students to understand why their behavior is unacceptable and how to behave better in the future.

- In their response to incidents of student misconduct, Schools shall take into consideration the students' individual circumstances and personalities, including the social, emotional, and psychological factors that may underlie a student's behavior.
- Managing students' misconduct must be consistent with the following:

### Disciplinary Actions

- To provide guidance to Schools in determining the appropriate progression of discipline, the Council categorizes students' misconduct into three levels, as follow:

#### **Level One - Any behavior that results in disruption of the teaching and learning environment, which may include, for example:**

- Tardiness (lateness/unpunctuality).
- Unexplained absences.
- Failing to bring the necessary books and equipment to class.
- Incorrect School uniform (including sports uniforms).
- Disruptive Behavior in classrooms and schools.
- Breaking School rules, including in classrooms, hallways, playgrounds, and buses.
- Defying orders from the school management and staff.
- Mocking others.
- Disruptive behavior on School buses (e.g., vandalizing bus seats).

#### **Level Two - Any behavior that results in severe disruption to the teaching and learning environment or that may cause harm to self or others and or property damage, which may include, for example:**

- Skipping classes or School.
- Sneaking into School after school hours without the presence of supervisors.
- Using abusive or inappropriate language toward peers and/or teachers.
- Fighting with other students and/or bullying them.
- Theft.
- Vandalizing School property or the property of others.
- Using cell phones during School time without the School administration's permission.
- Possessing or viewing pornographic or other inappropriate material.
- Cheating on exams or assignments.

- Providing false documents (e.g., forging Parents'/Guardians' signatures).
- Misuse or abuse of the School's IT systems.

**Level Three - Any behaviour that results in physical danger to others, or which violates applicable laws in the UAE, which may include, for example:**

- Assaulting Teaching Faculty members, staff or members of the local community.
- Distributing (or participating in the distribution of) pornographic material.
- Willful damage to, or destruction of, School and personal property.
- Possessing or selling weapons or explosives.
- Using or promoting illegal drugs or substances in violation of public order and morals.
- Exchanging any inappropriate materials, such as letters or photos.
- Committing major actions contradictory to public morals such as sexual assault.

### Banned Disciplinary Actions

**It is forbidden to use any of the following methods as disciplinary actions:**

- All forms of physical punishment.
- Lowering or threatening to lower grades.
- Group punishment for an individual's misconduct.
- Imposing more School work.
- Mocking or insulting the student in private or in public.
- Preventing the student of using washroom facilities or consuming food.

### Dealing with Willful or Persistent Misconduct

- Students should be given appropriate guidance and opportunities to identify the motivation and purposes behind their actions and to rectify any negative behaviors before disciplinary action (e.g., warnings, written notices) is taken.

**Student misconduct shall be dealt with as follow:**

- Firstly, the School shall provide counseling for the student, with a clear explanation, with reasons, of the changes in behavior that are required of the student by the School.
- Next, the School will put in place a strategy, with the appropriate monitoring and support, to address and correct the student's unacceptable behavior.

- If there is a need for further escalation of response, the School shall inform Parents/Guardians by letter and hold a meeting or a series of a meetings with them to agree to a reasonable joint home-School strategy. Parents/Guardians shall be required, at this stage, to sign an undertaking to support the agreed strategy.
- Should the student continue to behave unacceptably, the School may suspend the student temporarily from School for up to five days and shall issue to the student and his or her Parent/Guardian a final warning.

### School Disciplinary Committee

- Schools shall form a School Disciplinary Committee to review and discuss student behavioral issues, provided that disciplinary actions by the committee must be fair and equitable to all students without exception.
- All disciplinary actions shall be appropriate to the student's age and the severity of the misconduct as per the levels identified in this policy. A transparent and fair appeals process for sanctions will be available to students and Parents/Guardians.
- The School Disciplinary Committee shall keep a record of the disciplinary offences of each student and the actions taken in response. Schools, the Council and any supervisory authorities shall treat all information about students' behaviour as strictly confidential.