

Forest School SA Behavior Management Policy

Forest School SA is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment for all participants. We believe that promoting positive behaviour is essential for the well-being and development of our students. This policy outlines our approach to behaviour management, emphasising prevention, positive reinforcement, and progressive interventions.

Principles

Respect: We respect the dignity and rights of all individuals and expect the same from our participants towards each other, staff, and the environment.

Safety: We prioritise the physical and emotional safety of all participants and staff.

Positive Reinforcement: We believe in reinforcing positive behaviours to encourage a supportive and inclusive community.

Restorative Practices: When conflicts or incidents occur, we aim to resolve them through restorative approaches that promote understanding and growth.

Inclusivity: Our behaviour management practices are inclusive and considerate of diverse backgrounds, abilities, and needs.

Guidelines

Prevention:

- Educate participants about expected behaviour and the reasons behind rules and expectations.
- Provide clear guidelines and expectations for behaviour in various settings and activities.
- Ensure adequate supervision and support for all activities.
- Create a positive and engaging learning environment that encourages cooperation and respect.

Positive Reinforcement:

- Acknowledge and reinforce positive behaviours through verbal praise, encouragement, and rewards.
- Use positive language and modelling to promote desired behaviours.
- Provide opportunities for participants to lead and make positive contributions to the group.

Interventions:

Relationship Building:

- If a student is not adhering to the behaviour policy, the first step is to focus on building a positive relationship with the student.
- Engage in one-on-one conversations to understand the underlying reasons for the behaviour.
- Offer support and guidance, demonstrating empathy and understanding.

Engagement:

- If the behaviour persists, focus on engaging the student in activities that align with their interests and strengths.
- Provide opportunities for the student to participate in decision-making and leadership roles within the group.
- Offer incentives or rewards for positive behaviour to encourage engagement.

Skill Development:

- If the behaviour continues, provide targeted skill development opportunities for the student.
- Teach the student specific skills related to self-regulation, emotional management, and conflict resolution.
- Offer coaching and support to help the student practise these skills in real-life situations.

Support Networks:

- If the behaviour persists despite skill development efforts, involve the student's support network, including family, caregivers, and external professionals.
- Collaborate with these stakeholders to develop a comprehensive support plan for the student.
- Provide ongoing communication and updates to ensure everyone is working towards the same goals.

Reflective Practice:

- If the behaviour continues to be a challenge, engage the student in reflective practices.
- Encourage the student to reflect on their behaviour and its impact on themselves and others.

- Guide the student in identifying alternative behaviours and strategies for managing challenging situations.

Restorative Practices:

- If the behaviour has caused harm to others, initiate restorative practices to address the harm and repair relationships.
- Facilitate dialogues between the student and those affected by their behaviour to promote understanding and resolution.
- Use restorative approaches to help the student understand the consequences of their actions and develop empathy.

Individualised Support Plan:

- If previous interventions have not been successful, develop an individualised support plan for the student.
- This plan should include specific goals, strategies, and timelines for behaviour improvement.
- Regularly review and adjust the plan based on the student's progress and feedback from stakeholders.

Ongoing Monitoring and Review:

- Continuously monitor the student's progress and behaviour.
- Regularly review the effectiveness of the interventions and make adjustments as necessary.
- Ensure that all stakeholders are involved in the review process and are supportive of the student's progress.

Notes:

- All reports and discussions regarding behaviour management will be handled confidentially, respecting the privacy of individuals involved.
- Incidents will be documented, and records will be kept securely and confidentially.

Training and Support:

- Staff will receive training in behaviour management techniques, conflict resolution, and restorative practices.
- Ongoing support and supervision will be provided to staff to ensure consistent and effective implementation of the behaviour management policy.

Review and Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.
- Feedback from participants, staff, and parents/guardians will be considered in the evaluation process.