Suspension and Expulsion Policy

Definition:
• **Suspension** means that a student is precluded from attending school and school activities for a specified period of time. Suspension can, in particular circumstances, include internal withdrawal of students from class and other school activities (deemed as ‘internal suspension’).
• **Expulsion** means that the school terminates its contractual obligations to educate a particular student.

Rationale:
• It is the expectation that all students and staff can attend and work in a safe and secure environment. Student responsibilities are emphasised to create this environment. Those who enrol at O’Loughlin Catholic College undertake, with their enrolment, to embrace these responsibilities. Suspension and expulsion are consequences that follow when regulations are breached repeatedly or one’s behaviour endangers others or is unlawful.

Aim:
• To ensure that there is a clearly defined set of procedures for suspension and expulsion at O’Loughlin Catholic College.

Implementation:
• Students and parents/guardians will be informed about the circumstances that have given rise to suspension and expulsion
• The legal obligations of the school will be taken into account
• All procedures for suspension and expulsion will be consistent with the rules of natural justice and procedural fairness
• The processes of suspension or expulsion as outlined in the Northern Territory Catholic Schools Manual – 10 September 2015, shall be followed
• Students and families will be treated respectfully as part of due process
• Suspension or expulsion will only be invoked when there is a serious and/or recurrent breach of student expectations as outlined in the College’s Student Wellbeing Policy (Code of Conduct), the terms and conditions outlined in the College’s Enrolment policy or the conduct of unlawful acts.

Evaluation:
Changes to the Suspension and Expulsion policy will be discussed in the following forums prior to any change:
  College Executive
  College Advisory Council
  College staff and students

This policy was ratified by the O’Loughlin Catholic College Executive in...  April 2016
This policy is due for review in...  April 2019
6.2.1 Suspension and/or Expulsion

Each school should have its own policy on this matter. It should take into account the uniqueness of its setting in the Northern Territory. Expulsion may be considered for a serious single incident or a significant pattern of unacceptable behaviour. Expulsion must be approved by the Director of Catholic Education.

The policy should be based on the following principles:

- The Expulsion Process must allow sufficient time for the Principal to consider a recommendation to expel a student;
- When a child is suspended and expulsion is considered, the student and their families should be advised of this.
- In instances where a student is not in the care of their parents, then the appropriate caregivers need to be engaged.

If the Principal forms an opinion that a student needs to be expelled, the Principal should:

- Confirm in writing that they are considering expulsion.
- Advise the reason for expulsion and summarize appropriate supporting documents.
- Invite the student (and parents) to meet within three clear working days to discuss and make submissions in relation to the proposal reasons.
- Advise that in addition or instead of meeting with the Principal, they may make a submission in three working days.
- The Principal must then make a decision in the next two working days and advise the student (family) as quickly as possible. In the case of appeal the Director will establish an appeal panel.

The following may be of assistance in developing the policy:

- Copy of Section 21 Education Act - Note the Reference is to Government School Principals, but acts as a guide for us;
- Natural Justice;
- Definitions

All three documents can be found in the NT Catholic Schools Manual, p 74-75