

POLICY #4

Student Discipline Policy

Purpose

The purpose of discipline at Great Plains Christian School (GPCS) is to guide students toward spiritual maturity, Christ-like character, and responsible citizenship. Discipline is intended to be corrective rather than punitive and seeks to help students develop self-control, respect for authority, honesty, responsibility, and consideration for others.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." — Proverbs 22:6

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." — Ephesians 6:1

GPCS believes that discipline is most effective when it is administered fairly, consistently, and with the goal of restoration and personal growth.

Oklahoma Compliance Statement

Great Plains Christian School is committed to maintaining a safe, orderly, and positive learning environment that supports student achievement and character development. This policy is intended to comply with applicable Oklahoma laws and regulations governing student discipline, due process, parental notification, and school safety.

The Superintendent/Principal shall be responsible for implementing and enforcing this policy and ensuring disciplinary actions are administered fairly, consistently, and without discrimination.

Non-Discrimination

In the administration of disciplinary authority, including detention, suspension, expulsion, classroom removal, and other corrective actions, GPCS shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or any other classification protected by applicable law.

All disciplinary decisions shall be based upon student conduct, school policy, and the safety and well-being of the school community.

Expectations for Student Behavior

Students are expected to:

- Demonstrate respect toward God, authority figures, peers, and school property.
- Follow classroom and school rules.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that promotes a safe and productive learning environment.
- Practice honesty, responsibility, self-control, and good sportsmanship.
- Refrain from behavior that disrupts learning or endangers others.

The Student Handbook shall contain the school's Code of Conduct, disciplinary procedures, consequences for violations, grounds for classroom removal, and procedures for parent notification.

Parent and Visitor Expectations

GPCS values the partnership between home and school and expects parents, guardians, and visitors to model respectful and Christ-like behavior.

Parents and visitors shall:

- Treat students, staff, and other families with respect and courtesy.
- Follow all school safety and visitor procedures.
- Sign in through the school office when required.
- Address concerns through appropriate communication with teachers and administrators.
- Refrain from disruptive, threatening, abusive, or confrontational conduct.

Failure to comply with these expectations may result in:

- Verbal or written warning
 - Removal from a school activity or event
 - Restrictions on future attendance at school functions
 - Trespass notice
 - Contact with law enforcement when warranted
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Teacher Authority and Responsibilities

Teachers have the authority and responsibility to maintain an orderly classroom environment that supports teaching and learning.

Teachers may utilize appropriate classroom management strategies including:

- Verbal correction
- Redirection
- Private conferences with students
- Loss of privileges
- Parent communication
- Behavioral contracts
- Classroom consequences consistent with school policy

Teachers shall document significant disciplinary incidents and interventions, including:

- Date and time of the incident
- Description of the behavior
- Students involved
- Actions taken
- Parent communication
- Follow-up measures

Documentation may be maintained electronically or in hard copy and shared with administration when necessary.

GPCS will provide training and professional development opportunities to assist teachers in effective classroom management and student discipline practices.

Progressive Discipline Procedures

The goal of discipline is correction, restoration, and growth. Consequences may vary based upon the severity, frequency, and circumstances of the misconduct.

Disciplinary actions may include:

Level 1: Minor Misconduct

Examples:

- Classroom disruption
- Failure to follow directions
- Minor disrespect
- Off-task behavior

Possible consequences:

- Verbal warning
- Redirection
- Parent contact
- Loss of privileges

Level 2: Repeated or Moderate Misconduct

Examples:

- Repeated classroom disruptions
- Defiance
- Inappropriate language
- Repeated failure to comply with school rules

Possible consequences:

- Parent conference
- Lunch or recess detention
- Before-school or after-school detention
- Behavioral contract

Level 3: Serious Misconduct

Examples:

- Bullying
- Harassment
- Fighting
- Threats
- Vandalism
- Academic dishonesty
- Possession of prohibited items

Possible consequences:

- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Loss of extracurricular privileges
- Restitution for damages
- Mandatory parent conference

Level 4: Severe Misconduct

Examples:

- Physical assault
- Serious threats of violence
- Possession of weapons
- Drug or alcohol possession or use
- Repeated serious misconduct
- Conduct that endangers the safety of others

Possible consequences:

- Extended suspension
- Recommendation for expulsion
- Referral to law enforcement when required

Administration reserves the right to bypass progressive discipline when the severity of the offense warrants immediate action.

Classroom Removal

A teacher may remove a student from the classroom when the student's behavior:

- Substantially disrupts the learning environment.
- Interferes with the rights of other students to learn.
- Creates a safety concern; or
- Repeatedly violates classroom expectations.

Prior to returning to class, the student may be required to meet with administration and receive appropriate corrective action.

Parents will be notified when a student is removed from class for significant disciplinary reasons.

School Personnel Responsibilities

School personnel are expected to address misconduct promptly, fairly, and consistently.

When disciplinary action is taken:

1. The incident shall be documented.
2. Administration shall review the circumstances when appropriate.
3. Parents shall be notified as required by school policy.
4. Appropriate interventions and consequences shall be assigned.

Alternative disciplinary measures may be used when deemed appropriate by administration.

Parent Notification

Parents shall be notified whenever significant disciplinary action is taken against a student, including:

- Classroom removal
- Detention
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Recommendation for expulsion

No student shall be detained after the regular school day unless reasonable efforts have been made to notify the parent or guardian.

For purposes of this policy, the term "parent" includes a legal guardian or other individual legally responsible for the student.

Rights under this policy transfer to students who are eighteen (18) years of age or otherwise emancipated under Oklahoma law.

Due Process

Students shall be afforded appropriate due process before significant disciplinary actions are imposed.

Students will have an opportunity to explain their actions and provide information regarding the incident before disciplinary decisions are finalized.

Parents may request a conference with administration regarding disciplinary decisions.

Biblical Restoration

Whenever possible, discipline should include opportunities for repentance, reconciliation, restitution, and restoration of relationships.

Students will be encouraged to accept responsibility for their actions, seek forgiveness when appropriate, and work toward rebuilding trust within the school community.

"If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." — Romans 12:18