

Detention

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide teaching staff at Darwin Middle School with options to assist with the management of negative student behaviour through the issue of detention.

Applicability

This policy is applicable to the Darwin Middle School community which includes but not limited to its: students, teachers, parents, and visitors to the school.

Governance

The Northern Territory Government provide Legislation and policy via the Department of Education. This directs Darwin Middle School to adopt local policy, procedure and guidelines to support school operations.

An independent School Board develops and drives the school's strategic agenda and sets their strategic vision. The School Board provides an independent viewpoint of how relevant legislation and national frameworks are applied. This strategic oversight ensures that the school's policies and programs align with both the law and contemporary national practices.

This strategic vision is then operationalised by the school who develops, implements, and manages local policy, procedures, and programs.

Legislation

	Education Act 2015 (NT)
	Education Regulations 2015 (NT)
	Detention and Internal Suspension Guideline (Department of Education NT)
Resources	Australian Student Wellbeing Framework
	Darwin Middle School Core Values
	Darwin Middle School Responsible Behaviour Framework
	Queensland Department of Education

Policy suite

This policy forms part of a policy suite that include the following documents:

- Darwin Middle School Detention Policy (this document).
- Darwin Middle School Detention Procedure.

This policy supports the Darwin Middle School Responsible Behaviour Framework adding further detail to the application of detentions as a consequence for level 2 and level 3 behaviours.

Roles and responsibilities

Department of Education is responsible for:

- ensuring student wellbeing and positive behaviour information provided to schools is based on best practice and sound evidence.
- ensuring capability-building support is provided to school staff to effectively develop and implement a whole-school approach to student wellbeing and positive behaviour.
- providing leadership support to Principals to implement the principles and practices of a whole-school approach to student wellbeing and positive behaviour.
- supporting Principals to make decisions in the best interests of their students.
- ensuring schools have a documented whole-school approach to student wellbeing and positive behaviour.
- providing advice, coaching and professional learning support to schools to develop and implement a whole-school approach to student wellbeing and positive behaviour.
- providing support to school staff to deliver student safety and wellbeing programs in line with the Australian Curriculum.
- assisting school staff to access professional learning opportunities that are appropriate to the school context.

School Board is responsible for:

- providing strategic oversight and vision to support the school to achieve the best outcomes for students.
- monitor school policy and programs, supporting with review and audit initiatives to cultivate a culture of continuous improvement.

Principal is responsible for:

- ensuring that their school develops and implements a whole school approach to wellbeing, engagement and behaviour, and communicating expectations to the school community.
- exploring alternative options to behaviour sanctions, such as facilitating a supportive conversation with the student about behaviour expectations whilst at school and looking at the student's individual circumstances or needs.
- providing advanced notification to the student's parent when issuing an after-school detention and ensuring that prior to any period of after-hours detention being issued, parents provide permission, either verbally or in writing.
- making contact with the parent to advise of any period of detention that occurs during school hours (either via email, written note / letter or phone call).
- where behaviour continues, or there have been numerous incidents of detention and/or internal suspension, facilitating meetings with the student and their parent to advise of the consequences should problematic behaviour continue.
- ensuring internal suspension information is entered onto the behaviour module in SAMS.

Assistant Principals, Senior Teachers and Year Level Coordinators are responsible for:

- issuing periods of detention or making recommendations to the Principal to issue internal suspensions. *These recommendations should include details of the behaviour, alternative behaviour management strategies employed, and the proposed period of sanction.*

Class room teachers are responsible for:

- responding to student behaviour by adopting positive strategies to manage classroom behaviour.
- providing appropriate school work to the student to complete during the course of a detention.

Policy details

Types of detention

Detention (school hours) is a consequence to problematic behaviour where the student is required to remain in-school during recess, lunch (or a portion thereof), in a closely supervised environment for a specified time. Detention is an appropriate response for a wide range of less serious classroom and school behaviour breaches.

Principal's Detention (after school hours) is a response to student behaviour that may incur after school hours detention, in a closely supervised environment for a specific time. A Principals Detention may be applied where a student is to make up class time lost due to truancy such as being late to class and/or being late to school. It may also be considered in incidents of repeated non engagement during class time.

Any disciplinary responses applied to student behaviour will be proportionate to the behaviour displayed and in line with the *Darwin Middle School Responsible Behaviour Framework*. Any period of detention can provide students with an opportunity to reflect on both their behaviour and strategies to avoid this from occurring in the future.

Who can issue a detention?

At Darwin Middle School the following teaching staff can issue both a detention and a Principal's Detention:

- Principal
- Assistant Principals
- Senior Teachers
- Year Level Coordinators

Detention – school hours

The Year co-ordinator or teacher will:

- consider if there are grounds for detention.
- notify parent depending on circumstances.
- record detention on Student Administration Management System (SAMS).

Principals Detention – out of school hours

The Senior Staff or Year co-ordinator will:

- consider if there are grounds for Principals Detention.
- notify parent verbally and in writing of the proposed detention at least 24 hours before the detention is scheduled to occur and have given consent.
- offer alternative option if parent deems Principals Detention unsuitable.
- record Principals Detention on Student Administration Management System (SAMS)

Considerations

Section 90 of the *Education Act 2015 (NT)* requires consideration on a range of factors prior to making any decisions relevant to the management of a student's behaviour, including issuing periods of detention. Teachers and senior educators should also apply these principles prior to making any determinations. The factors include:

- the age of the student
- the developmental stage of the student
- whether the student is a child with special learning needs
- the mental health and wellbeing of the student
- the physical health and wellbeing of the student
- any relevant religious or cultural considerations
- the student's home environment and the arrangements in place for the student's care.

Prior to issuing a detention, teaching staff must also consider and implement actions to meet the following logistical requirements (60 minute maximum per school day, not to exceed 2 times a week):

- appropriate length of the detention period
- where and when the detention will take place
- food/drink and toilet breaks
- appropriate supervision during the detention
- school work or reflection activities
- notifying parents/carers
- transport home

Detentions issued within school hours must consider the above. As a rule, detentions undertaken during recess should not exceed 10 minutes. Detentions undertaken during lunch should not exceed 15 minutes.

Compliance

If a student fails to attend a detention, this may be considered as non-compliance. Senior teaching staff are to decide the appropriate course of action and take into consideration any events that may have impacted on the student's ability to attend. Consequences for non-compliance or non-attendance may include detention at another time, an alternative education plan or suspension.

All detentions must be recorded on the Student Administration Management System (SAMS).

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