

Student Damage to School Property

Rationale:

School Property is occasionally damaged by students enrolled at Belvoir Special School. This damage can be deliberate or accidental. The purpose of this policy is to set out the parameters in which parents will be asked to pay for damage deliberately caused by students and how each of these incidents will be recorded and communicated to the relevant authorities.

Aims:

To ensure that the cost of deliberate damage to school property is not solely borne by Belvoir Special School and that students and parents do take some responsibility for deliberate damage that occurs within the school.

Implementation:

1. Department of Education and Training policy states that *“A parent is not legally responsible for damage caused by a student at school unless it can be shown that the student was:*
 - *acting as the agent or employee of the parent*
 - *acting with the authority of the parent or*
 - *the damage was caused by a dangerous article that was given to the student by a parent.”*
2. At all times the Principal has the discretion to call the police where deliberate acts of damage occur at the school.
3. Victorian schools have no stand-alone legal duty to bear the cost of replacing or repairing employees’ personal property that has been lost, stolen or damaged at work.
4. Similarly Schools have NO AUTHORITY to make liability payments or accept liability for the damage or loss of any personal item belonging to a staff member, student or visitor of the school.
5. Deliberately damaging school property can result in a student being suspended from school for a period of time.
6. Notwithstanding point one, where damage to school property is both deliberate and the student in question is considered in control of their behaviour some of the cost of the damage will be invoiced to the child’s parents.
7. The school cannot demand that such payment is received.
8. As an alternative to payment for damage the school may require students to complete a period of community service to act as recompense for the damage that they have caused. This Community service can be performed during recess or lunchtimes, or can be completed afterschool or on weekends.
9. Any period of community service must be supervised by appropriately qualified staff.

Evaluation: This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year policy cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on

29th April 2015