

**Yuba River Charter School
Nevada City, California
POLICY MANUAL**

DISCIPLINE

(Approved by the Charter Council 02-08-06)

General Guidelines

At Yuba River Charter School, one of the central aims is that all of the children will have the opportunity to experience the benefits of the curriculum in an environment that fosters their potential, self-esteem and well being. Discipline at YRCS is a collaborative effort between families and the school. Within the outlined framework, the faculty and administration work together with families to create a safe haven for our children.

Student attentiveness, cooperation, and punctuality are expected in the classroom. Respect for adults, peers and property must be sought after at all times in all areas of participation at the school. All rules and expectations that are in effect on campus extend to off campus, school sponsored activities and events such as parties, field trips, and concerts.

In The Classroom

Individual disciplinary problems, whether in the classroom or on the play yard, are handled directly by the supervising teacher or authorized adult. When a discipline issue presents itself, the teacher will seek age appropriate interventions that re-direct the behavior. While imitation and non-invasive interventions are appropriate for younger children, direct interventions may be required for older children. These may include logical consequences, a time-out, or a cooling off period where the student is asked to leave the classroom in order to re-focus. Sometimes physical work or activity can help redirect the student towards a positive resolution.

We oppose all forms of corporeal punishment, public ridicule or any other form of psychological, emotional, or physical abuse.

Media on Campus

No electronic media, games or toys including but not limited to cell phones or individual music players, will be allowed on campus.

The Middle School

Given the proximity of the younger grades, children in grades 6-8 have a special responsibility at YRCS. Middle school children serve as role models for the younger grades. A high sense of personal responsibility and willingness to cooperate with teachers and fellow students is essential. Clear and open communication both among students and teachers helps lessen discipline problems. Public displays of affection are considered inappropriate.

A Word About Harassment

Repeated, unwanted and disrespectful attention is called harassment. It takes many forms, all of which are serious personal and social offenses. YRCS strives to nurture the emotional well being of its whole community. All students are expected to refrain from any comments, attitudes, bullying, physical touching or attentions unwanted by or upsetting another person. It is of the utmost importance that each student develops and practices a respectful sensitivity for the physical and emotional well being of other people in the school.

Discipline Referral Slips

Behaviors that are seen as detrimental to a learning environment and are considered serious misbehaviors include, but are not limited to:

- Obscene or abusive language
- Verbal or physical harassment or bullying
- Fighting
- Teasing or gossiping
- Violent behavior such as throwing objects
- Destruction of personal or school property
- Disrespect towards teachers, other adults, or peers
- Persistent disobedience

In the event a student seriously misbehaves or continually displays problematic behavior, he or she will receive a Discipline Referral Slip that will be taken home for review and signature of a parent. This form acts as a bridge between the teacher and parent in fostering understanding, responsibility, and resolution. The teacher will write a brief description of the issue and will indicate whether a follow up is necessary. The student will be asked to consider his or her behavior and what they could do to improve the situation. The student will then return the slip for review by the Discipline Committee, which is comprised of the administrator and at least two faculty members. Typically, a meeting with the committee will be required after the 2nd incident, and parents will be asked to come to school after the 3rd.

Once the referral process has been exhausted, the child will move toward the Student Success Team (SST) model, in which a behavior contract will be written with the parent(s), the school psychologist, and the administrator. In the event that this modality is unsuccessful, procedures could be evoked for suspension and possible expulsion.

This policy supersedes all previous policies related to discipline.

This policy is included in the Parent Handbook, Employee Handbook and Parent Information Meeting handouts.