

## **BEHAVIOUR POLICY – PLAYGROUP AND KINDERGARTEN**

One of the greatest tasks of education is to meet the changing and developing needs of today's children. It is therefore essential in Steiner Waldorf Schools that parents and teachers work together in an honest and transparent way. This form of education needs parents that will show their commitment to the school and that will take an active interest in their child's education and well-being.

With the ever increasing pressures of the world and the impact that it has on the family unit, our school as a result, is encountering an increase in the number of children who are experiencing difficulties in learning, being unable to interact with others in a socially appropriate manner and being unable to show respect towards the authority of the school, teachers and fellow classmates.

It is the responsibility of the school, teachers and parents to ensure that the well-being of each child is respected and guarded. It is vital that we remind ourselves that in terms of the South African Bill of Rights, every child has a right:

- To a name and a nationality from birth
- To family care or parental care
- To basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care and social services
- To be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation
- To basic safe education

It is with such basic human rights in mind that the College of Teachers wish to bring to your attention the procedure if inappropriate behaviour arises during teaching time, at break time and in the aftercare.

- 1) In the event of minor incidents, the teacher will use her discretion to deal with them in a creative way that is appropriate for the child's age and developmental stage.
- 2) In the event of major incidents, i.e. if a child displays behaviour that is a threat to the other children and teachers and it is not possible for the child to be contained, parents will be immediately contacted to fetch their child from the school premises. The College of Teachers will meet with the parents to decide on an appropriate consequence and suspension from the school for a period of time.
- 3) If repeated incidents of inappropriate behaviour occur the parents will be contacted by the school and a meeting will be arranged to discuss this. The motivation for the discussion between the parent and teacher will be to agree to support one another and find ways to respond to the situation at hand.

The teachers and parents will, formulate a response plan together, which will include a monitoring agreement and a time frame. At this meeting, teachers and parents will set a date for a review meeting that will assess the effectiveness of the response plan and if necessary, formulate a revised response plan. Regular contact between the parent, teacher or aftercare teacher will occur to monitor the child's progress. The period of time for the response plan and monitoring system will be at the discretion of the College of Teachers.

Parents are encouraged not to further influence situations by participating in informal discussions.

- 4) If parents are contacted on numerous occasions to come and fetch their child from school, the school will advise that, as part of the Response Plan, that parents seek professional assistance or various therapies such as Curative Eurythmy, painting

therapy, play therapy, dietary changes and others. In the aftercare the child will not be allowed to return until such time as assistance has been sought and the child has made sufficient progress.

- 5) The College of Teachers has the right to exclude any pupil from the school if the following occurs;
  - a) A complete breakdown in communication between the parents and teacher.
  - b) The teacher has been consistently unable to contain the child in the school environment.

However, in the event of the above, the matter will be decided by the College of Teachers who may ask the parents to remove their child from the school. The teachers' role in the process is one of continued support throughout the child's attendance at the Stellenbosch Waldorf School.

- 6) In the event of a child leaving the school an exit interview between the parents and the College of Teachers / Enrolment department will be arranged. The exit interview is arranged when any child leaves the school and follows the procedure in the Federation Guidelines.