

E. Codes for recording behaviour incidents

The department requires incidents related to school disciplinary absences to be categorised based on the reason for the suspension or exclusion. Staff use the categories to classify all incidents they record, not just those that result in a disciplinary absence. The department updated the categories in 2023. Figure E1 lists the current categories and definitions provided to staff.

Figure E1
Reason description categories for behaviour incidents

Problem behaviour	Definition
Abusive language	Student delivers verbal messages that include swearing, name calling, or use of words in an inappropriate way.
Academic misconduct	Student inappropriately and falsely demonstrates their learning. It includes cheating, collusion, contract cheating, copying work, disclosing/receiving assessment information, fabricating, impersonation, examination misconduct, plagiarism.
Bomb threat/false alarm	Student delivers a message of possible explosive materials being on campus, near campus, and/or pending explosion.
Bullying	Student engages in deliberate verbal, physical, and/or social behaviour intended to cause ongoing physical, social and/or psychological harm. Bullying can occur in person, or online (cyber bullying). Bullying may be obvious or hidden.
Defiance	Student refuses to follow directions given by school staff.
Disrespect	Student intentionally delivers socially rude or dismissive messages to adults or students.
Disruption	Student engages in behaviour causing an interruption in a class or school activity or event. Disruption includes sustained loud talk, yelling, or screaming; noise with materials; and/or sustained out-of-seat behaviour.
Dress code	Student wears clothing that is not within the dress code guidelines defined by the school.
Falsifying documents	Student intentionally creates, changes, or modifies a document with the intention of misleading. It includes signing a person's name without that person's permission.
Fighting	Student is involved in mutual participation in an incident involving physical violence.
Harassment	Student engages in the delivery of harmful messages in any format related to gender identity, ethnicity, sex, race, religion, disability, physical features, or other identity characteristics.
Physical aggression	Student intentionally engages in actions involving physical contact with others where injury may occur (for example, hitting, slapping, punching, hitting with an object, kicking, hair pulling, scratching, etc.). This includes premeditated acts or incitement of others to undertake physical aggression. Physical aggression may be directed towards peers, adults, visitors, or animals; or flora or fauna.

Problem behaviour	Definition
Property damage	Student participates in an activity that results in destruction, damage, or disfigurement of property.
Property misuse causing risk to others	Student engages in misuse of property which may cause a risk of injury or ill-health to others. Behaviour involving throwing objects or using objects in an unsafe manner causing injury.
Refusal to participate in the educational program of the school	Student refuses to take part in activities or learning that are requested or expected as part of the educational program at the school.
Substance misconduct involving illegal substances	Student is in possession of, has supplied, or is using illegal drugs/substances/imitations, or implements.
Substance misconduct involving tobacco and other legal substances	Student is in possession of, has supplied, or is using tobacco, alcohol, other prohibited substances, or implements.
Technology violation	Student engages in inappropriate (as defined by school) use of mobile phone, drone, smartwatch, camera, computer, or other communication device. This includes fraudulent or illegal activity such as attempting to hack, use of key loggers, or impersonating staff or other students.
Theft	Student is involved by being in possession of, having passed on, or being responsible for removing school or someone else's property.
Truancy (out of school)	Student is absent from school (morning, afternoon, or entire school day) without permission or appropriate reason (for example, an unauthorised absence).
Truancy (out of class)	Student is present at school, but is absent for one or more scheduled classes without permission or appropriate reason (for example, an unauthorised absence).
Use/possession of combustibles	Student is/was in possession of substances/objects readily capable of causing bodily harm and/or property damage (for example, matches, lighters, firecrackers, petrol, lighter fluid, aerosols).
Use/possession of weapons	Student is in possession of knives and guns (real or look-alike), or other objects readily capable of causing bodily harm.
Other – charge-related suspension	Principal is reasonably satisfied that the student has been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • charged with a serious offence • charged with an offence other than a serious offence, and that the nature of the offence precludes the student's attendance on the basis that they pose an unacceptable risk to other students or staff.

Source: Department of Education.