



# ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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## SECRETARIAT FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

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## SECRETARY FOR ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

### Memorandum

To: Elementary School Principals  
From: Andrew McLaughlin, Ed.D  
Secretary for Elementary Education

Re: **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT – Elementary Policy #S319 Discipline  
CONDUCT WITH STUDENTS – Standards for Ministerial  
Code of Conduct**

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A copy of the attached **policy must be posted** in the Faculty Rooms of your school.

Standards of Ministerial Behavior and Boundaries: Any employee who engages in actions that violate this policy, regardless of the reason, will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

You must inform all teachers of this policy. Please provide a copy of this policy for your teachers as well.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Attachment



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# PLEASE POST

**P/P    Discipline**

**Policy No.:    S319**

**Date:            September, 2015**

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Discipline is a necessary reflection of the philosophy of a Catholic School. The school and individual classrooms should nurture a positive sense of self-discipline in order to provide an environment conducive to learning. Effective discipline has as its end the development of students who respect themselves, other persons and those in authority. As a general rule, the classroom teacher manages the discipline issues of the class and enlists the help of the administrator in cases involving serious or repeated misbehavior.

Corporal Punishment is absolutely forbidden in the parish elementary school. The archdiocese, parish, school or religious community can assume no responsibility for any use of corporal punishment by a teacher or administrator even though the permission for such punishment has been given in writing by the parents. Any violation of this regulation will be considered a most serious matter. Failure of a teacher or administrator to comply with this regulation will result in immediate dismissal.

Verbal, sexual, psychological or emotional abuse denies the dignity and respect deserving to all individuals and is therefore prohibited. One of the goals of a Catholic school is to develop an understanding and respect for each student. Teachers and administrators culpable of such action will be subject to disciplinary measures.

Written punishments are non-productive assignments and are prohibited. Under no circumstances may lengthy written assignments be assigned for homework. Whole class punishments are also prohibited.

Occasionally parent(s)/guardian(s) disgruntled with the school will direct that the student not be spoken to by the administrator or any other school official regarding conduct unless the parents are present. The school should advise the parents that the school cannot teach the student under such circumstances and, therefore, the student should be removed if the parents insist on such conditions.