

SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER'S CONFERENCE

STUDENTS' WELFARE

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- 'Student Welfare refers to the promotion and maintenance of good learning, good mental and physical health as well as social well-being of students, and conditions which are conducive to these'. Oxford Dictionary
- Schools and other educational institutions have a responsibility to every student to ensure they have the best possible educational experience. Increasingly, there is an increase in child abuse, truancy, physical and cyber bullying.
- With all these, teaching staff need to be more vigilant to ensure that students enjoy both physical and emotional well being while in school.

STUDENTS' WELFARE

- The rate of discipline cases in schools is increasing
- The way schools deal with each respective case vary
- Some schools are termed 'dumping ground'
- There is need to reconsider how schools manage students welfare
- Students' Welfare refers to systems and practices that help care for students wellbeing, thereby enabling them to make sound decisions about themselves and those around them.

Students' Welfare

- Schools need understand '*Duty of Care*' as a paramount obligation to care for students.
- The Education Act No. 9 of 2014 provides for:
 - i. **Section 47:** DG to come up with guidelines on how to discipline students. This document provides for how to merit good behavior and how to deal with bad behavior.
 - ii. **Section 48:** Medical Examination of Students
 - iii. **Section 49:** School Councils – in relating to children to attend school and provision for student representation in a School Council.

Students' Welfare – Cont.

iv. Section 50 – Student Representative Body. [*This enables them to develop leadership skills*]

v. Section 51 – Functions of a Student Representative Body [*This enables the student body to contribute effectively to the management of the school*]

Strategies to Deal with Student Welfare

1. Have a Career Program and Counseling Committee established
2. Establish a Discipline Committee, Approved School Rules (Researched) and Discipline Guidelines
3. Establish Students' Council and guidelines
4. Establish a clear Process Map to deal with Discipline Incidents for students and staff
5. Schedule regular meetings with school staff and students
6. Schedule career talks through out the year on important issues

Ideal Process Map

- i. An Incident is reported
- ii. Fill up incidental report form by reporting staff
- iii. Form given to student to fill in statement
- iv. Eye witness or further evidence collated
- v. Interview with alleged student with a staff present – consider gender issues, etc.
- vi. Convene tripartite meeting
- vii. Case presented to Discipline Committee
- viii. Discipline committee review and assess case
- ix. Discipline committee takes decision and informs Principal

Process Map – Cont.

For Serious misconducts that warrants suspension and dismissal, consider:

- i. Only the Council has the power to suspend a student on the advise of the Principal
- ii. Only the Education Board has the power to withdraw or terminate a student
- iii. The Education Act gives power to the DG to veto a decision.

Take Note

- Minute all meeting decisions (Date (s), Time, etc.
- All students have the potential to change and be molded if managed properly
- Children are affected by environment, experience, peer pressure, experiment – all process of life
- All children have a right to education and life without pain and problem
- Children are a great asset
- Children's behavior show the kind of parents we are

Take Note – Cont.

- When you withdraw a student from your school and the student(s) goes to another school, you fail the student and transfer the child's problem to another school.
- We all hear that we are created in the Image and Likeness of God – students need to believe this.
- Finally, when we care for our children properly, the chances for them to end up in mischievous problems decreases.

Recommendation:

- i. That Schools have the approved Student Welfare Policy and to implement it
- ii. School Councils to have clear Student Welfare Policies and guidelines to deal with discipline and rewards
- iii. Schools to establish Career and Counseling programs



Thank you

C, Q & A