

# GEORGES HALL PUBLIC SCHOOL



## Commendation Card Policy 2005



## COMMENDATION CARD POLICY

### Rationale

Discipline concerns the development of appropriate and responsible attitudes and behaviour in students. It implies the development of self-discipline and the ability to distinguish right from wrong.

The Commendation Card Policy is an integral part of other programs in the school. It aims to foster a well-disciplined environment that provides a system of relationships, rules, rewards and punishments. A strong emphasis on the use of positive practices will assist students to develop the ability to accept responsibility for their behaviour and show respect for others.

The Commendation Card Policy has a strong link to the following practices within the school:

- The Fair Discipline Code
- Students Rights and Responsibilities
- School Rules
- Levels of Discipline
- Detention
- Student Welfare
- Playground Policy
- Social Skills program

### Aim

The Commendation Card Policy is designed to:

- Reward EXCEPTIONAL behaviour and EXCEPTIONAL effort.
- It aims to foster a well-disciplined environment.
- Foster responsible student behaviour in the classroom, the playground and while representing the school.
- Be used as a motivational tool for the encouragement of good behaviour.
- Cater for the individual differences of students behavioural levels
- Be consistent in its distribution of cards: See “Distribution of cards”
- Reward students at 3 levels
- **BRONZE** = 20 COMMENDATION CARDS
- **SILVER** = 50 COMMENDATION CARDS (Treat )
- **GOLD** = 80 COMMENDATION CARDS ( Excursion)

**Please note:**

(Support staff ( ESL, STLA, RFF, Italian & Library= accumulating system- for Eg 5 ticks means a commendation card))

(Scripture Teachers, Band, Maths Group teachers = 10 a term)

(Casual Teachers= 1 attached to daily outline)

## **Distribution of cards**

- ❖ All students who are on Level A will receive a commendation card at the end of the week. This means that:
  - Stage 3 = No Detention, good behaviour all week
  - Stage 2 = No Detentions, maximum 1 cross on the board only and good behaviour for all the week.
  - Stage 1 = No Detentions, maximum 2 crosses on the board only and good behaviour for all the week.
  - Early Stage 1 = No Detentions, maximum 3 crosses on the board only and good behaviour for all the week
  
- ❖ Six students in each class have the opportunity to gain one other commendation card during the week. Each class teacher can distribute up to another ten (10) cards in the week, the basis of the distribution will be at the discretion of the class teacher. He/she will distribute this card on the basis of *exceptional behaviour* and *exceptional effort*. Each child is an individual and the distribution of the card will from one student to another. For example, The child who can not stand in lines at assembly for more than 5 minutes may be a recipient of a card if he/she stands at assembly for 5 days in a row in silence—this can be contributed to exceptional behaviour or/and effort.
- ❖ All executive have the license to distribute cards at any time, even though the class that the child belongs to may have already been given their extra 10 card quota.

## **System Operation**

The Commendation cards begin every academic new year with a different coloured card from the year before. Every child can begin collecting the cards from the first day of school. It is the responsibility of the child to collect cards. Any lost cards will not be replaced.

Cards are placed in a basket in the front office. These cards are collected by the Deputy Principals, placed on a data base and certificates are created. The certificates and cards are then placed in the appropriate teachers' pigeon holes for distribution. Every 5 weeks the Deputy Principals announce who has received a Silver Certificate at the K-6 Assembly. If a Gold Certificate has been distributed the Deputy Principals make sure their names are recorded in the Newsletter and in the Gold Book

Cards close in week 7 of term 4. This is to enable staff to organise the Silver treat and the Gold treat. After Week 7 term 4 staff are to use other positive reinforcement strategies to enhance good behaviour.

## **Levels of Discipline**

### **GOLD**

Students are placed on GOLD for their outstanding effort in all areas of the school and they have received a Bronze and Silver commendation certificate ie 80 commendation cards.

Students on GOLD will:

- have their names written in a special GOLD level book located in the front office
- have their name published in the schools Newsletter
- be presented with a GOLD certificate at an Assembly ( parents are invited)
- attend a special GOLD excursion at the end of the year

### **SILVER**

Students are placed on Silver for displaying consistent pleasing effort in all areas of school life. They would have received a Bronze certificate, ie 50 commendation cards.

Students on SILVER will:

- be presented with a Silver Certificate
- have their names read out at the K-6 Assembly
- have their certificates presented at an assembly

### **BRONZE**

Students are placed on BRONZE for displaying pleasing effort in all areas of school life. They will receive a Bronze certificate if they have collected 20 commendation cards.

Students on BRONZE will:

- be presented with their certificates in the class room.

### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

It must be noted that creating actual lists of behaviours for Commendation card recipients is too difficult to compile. This is due to the fact that each individual student will have EXCEPTIONAL behaviour and EXCEPTIONAL effort rewarded based on the identification of the teacher. Students who receive a Commendation card have been so given because of the knowledge of the teacher distributing the card. The Commendation Card Policy will continue to work as awareness, consistency, thought and effort is made by students, parents and teachers.