St Augustine’s College, Sydney aims to provide an environment for students and parents conducive to open and honest communication. It is our desire to facilitate an atmosphere of trust and cooperation.

What is corporal punishment?

Corporal punishment is defined as the use of physical force towards a child for the purpose of control and/or correction, and as a disciplinary penalty inflicted on the body with the intention of causing some degree of pain or discomfort, however mild. Punishment of this nature is referred to in several ways, for example: hitting, smacking, spanking, and belting (Cashmore & de Haas, 1995). Although most forms of corporal punishment involve hitting children with a hand or an implement (such as a belt or wooden spoon), other forms of corporal punishment include: kicking, shaking, biting and forcing a child to stay in uncomfortable positions (United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2006). The desired outcome of physical punishment is child compliance with adult directives (Gawlik, Henning, & Warner, 2002; Smith, Gollop, Taylor, & Marshall, 2004).

Corporal Punishment at St Augustine’s College-Sydney

Corporal punishment at St Augustine’s College-Sydney is strictly forbidden. Under no circumstances can it be used at the College. Nor does the College condone implicitly or explicitly the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons, including parents, to enforce discipline.