



Fact sheet

Detention

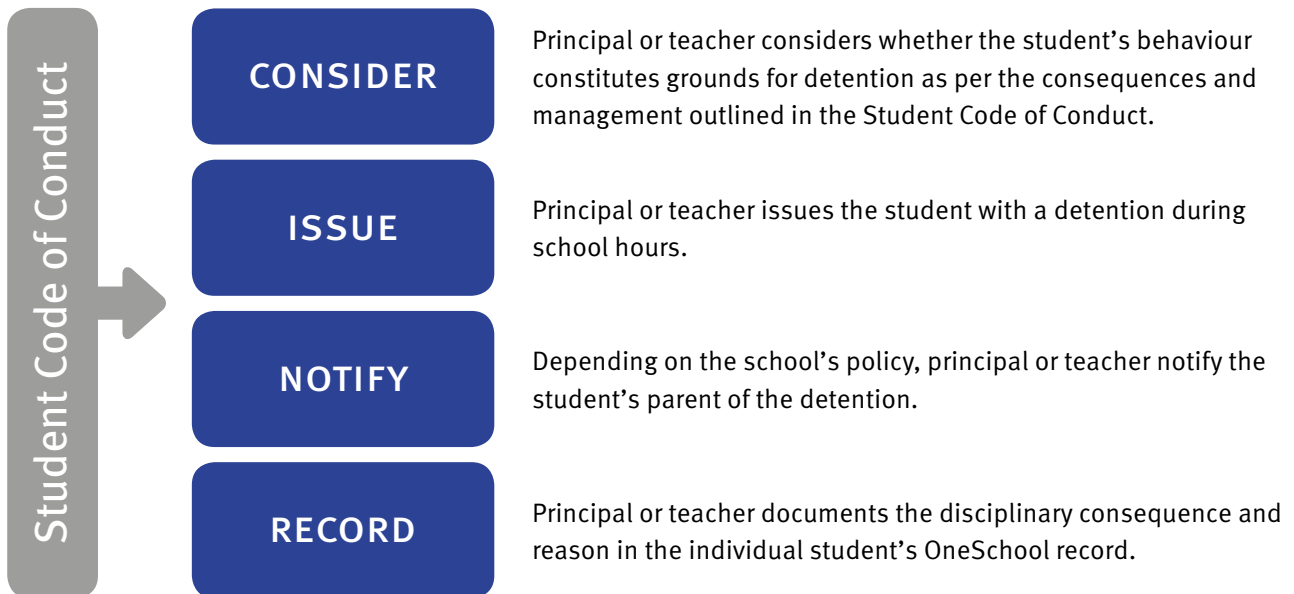
A detention is a consequence that schools may use to address inappropriate student behaviour. Detentions can be applied during school hours, out-of-school hours or on non-school days (for example, a Saturday morning). Principals make a decision about what happens in their school in consultation with their school community, and if detentions are to be part of the disciplinary consequences used in the school then this must be clearly explained in the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Key information

- detentions may be issued by the principal or a teacher, provided this consequence and its management is clearly outlined in the Student Code of Conduct
- the Student Code of Conduct must include details of when detentions will occur; the maximum length of detention dependent on age of student; food and toilet breaks; and which teachers are authorised by the principal to impose the various types of detentions
- the Student Code of Conduct must also include the following for detentions issued for **outside of school hours**, including Saturday:
 - a **risk assessment** has been completed and a **risk management plan** developed
 - parents have been notified verbally and in writing of the proposed detention at least 24 hours before the detention is scheduled to occur and have given consent
 - parents have been consulted about suitable times for the detention to be completed within the parameters set by the school and
 - parents have been informed of:
 - location and duration of the detention
 - their responsibility to arrange travel/supervision to and from the detention, where appropriate.
- parents **may** be notified by the principal or teacher if a student is placed on detention during school hours, depending on the school's policy
- if an out-of-school hours detention is considered an appropriate disciplinary consequence, the principal or teacher **must** notify parents to negotiate, within parameters, the day, time and duration of the detention and the responsibilities of the student, parent and school in relation to detention supervision arrangements. A **detention record** sample is provided to assist with documenting this disciplinary action in OneSchool
- if a student fails to attend a detention, this may be considered disobedience and the school principal makes a decision about the appropriate course of action. Examples of consequences for non-compliance or non-attendance may be the implementation of a discipline improvement plan or suspension
- all detentions must be recorded in OneSchool (keeping records in OneSchool enables them to be used to inform future decisions, e.g. it records that the student knew the expected behaviour and consequences and the support put in place by the school).

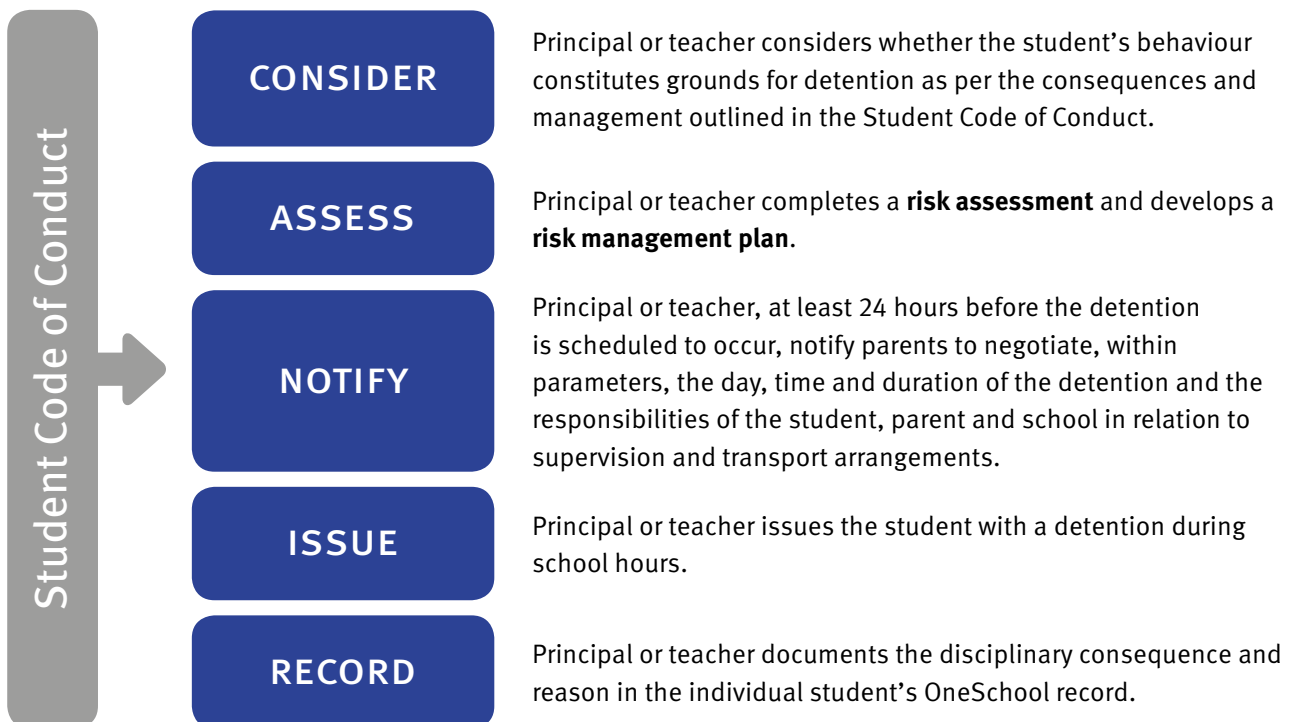


Flowchart: Detention (school hours)



* If the student fails to attend the detention, this may be considered disobedience and the principal makes a decision about the appropriate course of action.

Flowchart: Detention (out-of-school hours or on non-school days)



* If the student fails to attend the detention, this may be considered disobedience and the principal makes a decision about the appropriate course of action.

Resources

[Out-of-school hours detention – consent form Word template](#) (optional)