

Responsible Thinking Classroom (RTC) Questions & Answers

- Secondary Families -

Mission Statement

Enriching lives by fostering right relationships and responsible thinking.

Vision

Our vision is to see each student think and behave responsibly, and recognise that their actions have individual and collective consequences.

What is RTC?

RTC refers to the Responsible Thinking Classroom (a physical location), whilst RTP refers to the Responsible Thinking Process (the process students participate in whilst inside the RTC).

Parklands utilises the Responsible Thinking Process (RTP) to help guide our behaviour education strategies. RTP is designed to intervene before a student's behaviour intensifies in order to help students learn self-control. The Responsible Thinking Classroom (RTC), supported by a team of RTP Facilitators, provides the opportunity for students to learn how to modify their behaviour. We believe that behaviour is a concept that is taught just like any other subject and sometimes students need time and space to get their head around the impact of their behaviour. RTC is a space to learn responsibility, self-control and devise strategies for positive life choices.

Common Misconceptions about RTC

*Parents sometimes struggle to differentiate between RTC as a place of learning rather than a detention room. In short, **RTC is not***

- 1. A place for 'naughty' students to go*
- 2. A means of punishment*
- 3. A detention*
- 4. A sign that the students enrolment is being questioned*
- 5. An opportunity for students to get out of doing classwork.*

Why might my student be referred to the RTC?

The Responsible Thinking Classroom (RTC) has three distinct purposes including behaviour referrals, uniform passes and incomplete class work, assignments, homework and unprepared or late for class.

Common RTC Behaviour Referral Questions

What behavioural reasons can students get referred to the RTC for?

Safety or disruptions in class (such as talking, calling out, out of seat etc.) are the core behaviours which result in an RTC referral. Additional behaviour such as disrespect towards teachers, defiance or disobedience, work avoidance, inappropriate language or use of computers may result in the RTP Facilitators referring the student to a Head of School.

Why does it appear that my child attends RTC so often?

- 1. RTC is a place for students to learn new behaviours; some students take longer to learn certain behaviours than others and thus may be referred more often than another.*
- 2. The RTP Facilitator team does not discuss a child's referral process with anyone other than the direct family, therefore it may feel like your child is being referred often, but in reality they have a normal referral rate.*
- 3. The RTP Facilitator team are committed to communicating home via email (or Phone if an email is not provided) for every RTC referral that occurs. The key purpose of this is to ensure that there are **No Surprises** for parents about their child's behavioural and educational choices. This can be very different to other school behaviour structures.*
- 4. If you are concerned that your child is attending more often than you would like please be quick to come and speak with an RTP Facilitator. We will be able to provide you with a history as well as ease your concerns.*
- 5. Finally remember we believe in 'No Surprises'; if we are concerned with your child's RTC referrals an RTP Facilitator would be in close communication with you via e-mail or in-person discussions in order to support your child and yourself.*

Why is my child being referred to the RTC for 'little' behavioural things?

The RTC process is designed to intervene before a student's behaviour intensifies in order to help student to stay engaged in the classroom. Removing the student for 10 minutes is often all it takes for them remember how to think responsibly about their behaviour for the remainder of the day.

Why does my child say that they like going to the RTC?

At Parklands believe that there is always a reason behind a child's disruptive behaviour. To that end, the RTC is designed to be a supportive, non-threatening environment whereby students can openly discuss their thoughts and feelings knowing that they will be listened too. The positive relationships built between students and RTP facilitators' results in students feeling better about themselves as well as their potential for change and personal growth. Our hope is that all students leave the RTC smiling and ready to reengage in learning.

Common Uniform Pass Questions

Why did my child have to go to RTC for not having correct uniform?

Every student who is not in complete school uniform is required to attend the RTC before 8.30am to attain a "green uniform pass". This is not considered a RTC referral; it is simply the **location** the college provides for students to register uniform discrepancies.

If I know my child is going to school in the wrong uniform what should I do?

Parents are asked to communicate via a note, phone or email the RTP facilitators at uniformpass@parklands.qld.edu.au in every instance where their child is out of uniform.

My child won't wear the correct uniform; can you please punish them at school?

The Staff at PCC expect that parents are responsible for ensuring that their child is in full academic or sport uniform before they leave home. Since RTC is a non-punitive process the RTC will not be responsible for punishing your child for a home-based responsibility. We will assist by ensuring that parents are informed about their child's uniform issues at all times. Consistent disregard of the Uniform Policy by a child may result in them speaking with a Head of School.

Common home/classwork, assignment and failed grade questions (secondary only)

My child says that they have already completed the work!

If you believe that you received a home communication email on behalf of a teacher by mistake, or wish for additional information about the task please contact the referring teacher (not the RTC). The referring teacher will be able to specify if the student is required to complete additional work, handed the work in late or simply didn't hand it in at all.

Common Home Communication Questions

Why are there so many emails?

We are committed to contacting parents every time an RTC referral occurs. This may feel overwhelming as we send letters relating to so many different areas but our overarching mantra "No Surprises" is the reason for this. It is not expected that you respond to each communication, sometimes it is for your information only. Ultimately how you respond to the information provided via email, letter or phone is your choice; we are simply following our requirement of ensuring that you know about your child's behavioural and academic choices.

Can I opt out of home communications?

Parklands Christian College Code of Behaviour specifically states that an RTP Facilitator will contact home as a result of all RTC referrals. Thus parents are not able to opt out of receiving this information.

What is an "Operation Snippet 2.0"?

Whilst we perceive RTC as a positive learning tool for all students, now all parents feel this way and receiving a home communication from us can be perceived as a negative experience. In order to balance this perception we launched Operation Snippet 2.0 during semester 2 2012. Operation Snippet 2.0 is a referral process for staff to send messages home about a child's positive decision during the day. We encourage you to celebrate this achievement with your child if you receive such a letter.

Who should I contact?

RTC or RTP Questions – contact an RTP Facilitator

Specific Behaviour Information – contact the referring teacher

Uniform Pass Information – uniformpass@parklands.qld.edu.au

Incomplete work – contact the referring teacher

How can I support the responsible thinking process from home?

The one question that I get asked during just about every conversation is what parents can do to support the RTC process once their child returns home. To this question I cannot tell you what to do; but I can make recommendations based on what we experience and see from our students.

Many of our students reflect that they are afraid, not of RTC, but of their parents finding out that they came to RTC. As an RTC facility we do not encourage punishment or rewards as teaching tools; rather RTP provides the opportunity for us to teach students how to look within themselves, decide the way they want to be and restructure their own lives so they can get what they want without violating the rights of others.

As far as we are concerned, once a student has worked through their responsible thinking plan and negotiated their return to class with the referring teacher the plan is filed and the incident is considered 'over'. When students return their plans to the RTC we remind them that they now have a 'fresh start' to try the strategies that they have agreed to as part of their plans. We encourage students to talk to their parents about their referral and the plan that they created including the strategies that they agreed to implement.

I encourage all parents to talk calmly and encouragingly with their child about their RTC referrals by using the same questions that we use during the responsible thinking process. By doing this the child can consider their behaviour and plan with a person outside of the school environment and thus further enhance their learning.

The RTP Questions that we use to discuss a referral include:

- What were you doing? Describe what happened which resulted in you being referred to RTC.
- What should you have been doing?
- What was the school rule you were not following?
 1. I can respect the right of others to learn
 2. I can be safe and keep other safe
 3. I am prepared for class and ready to learn
 4. I can respect the property of others and the college
- What is your plan? What choices can you now make to change your behaviour, attitude and/or actions?
- What changes will we see in you as a result of your plan?

If you would like further information or support in using this process at home please make an appointment to speak with an RTP Facilitator.

Call us... (07) 33804219

RTP Coordinator: Bernii Elvery (ex704) belvery@parklands.qld.edu.au

RTP Facilitator: Angela Jackman ajackman@parklands.qld.edu.au

RTP Facilitator: Lisa Henderson lhenderson@parklands.qld.edu.au

Uniform Notes: uniformpass@parklands.qld.edu.au