

principal hands out 653 suspensions

Queensland, Australia—New high school

principal Leonie Kearney made a name for herself last year with a zero-tolerance discipline approach. She suspended 653 students for poor behavior, including swearing at teachers and bullying peers.

Kearney makes no apology for her tough standards. “Our school is a place for learning. It is not a drop-in center for those...hell-bent on the destruction of others.

Parent association president Andy Carl says respect and pride are now on the rise among students and parents. “You have just got to be tough with kids,” he says.

Source: *Courier Mail news.com.au*

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What’s your reaction to these mass suspensions? Are “get-tough” policies best for schools and students? Why or why not? Is punishment the only way to get kids’ attention? How many warnings should students receive before being suspended or expelled?

Is your school’s discipline policy fair and age-appropriate? Does it foster respect between teachers and students? Why or why not? Are you proud of how kids treat each other at your school? What would you change to make your school an even better learning environment?

Scripture links: Proverbs 12:1; Ephesians 6:4;

1 Thessalonians 5:12-15; and Hebrews 12:7-11. ■