



EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE

WILLINGNESS AND POWER OF CHOICE AT ATHENA

Over the 30 plus years that the Athena School has been in operation, those periods characterised by excellent products and the greatest degree of expansion, stability and harmony have been periods when the standard operating procedure of the executives was the understanding and use of ALL the applicable technology and administration policy of L. Ron Hubbard. These periods, naturally, were characterised by education and standards of behaviour that were neither authoritarian nor permissive.

In regard to willingness and power of choice in our School, our policies are as follows:

1. In our experience, the vast majority of children are very keen to play the game of being a student, that we offer. We aim to preserve and produce willingness by using the educational philosophy and study technology of L. Ron Hubbard, including such points as:
 - a) making the purpose and use of the subject or step real
 - a) making our courses as interesting as possible
 - b) using smooth gradients and assessing and programming students so that they are on the right gradient
 - c) two-way communication and observation to really understand and handle individuals and situations
 - d) word clearing
 - e) freedom of speech and the right to reason and plenty of opportunities to exercise them
 - f) not teaching by altitude (non-authoritarian)
 - g) exercising good control in a friendly and compassionate way
 - h) giving choices where it is appropriate
 - i) always guiding our students to be self-confident and responsible for themselves and their decisions
 - j) fully applying "How to Make Good Choices" precepts 4, 19 and 20 in relating to the students.
2. As a group, our policy is to apply all the technology, administration and educational philosophy of L. Ron Hubbard that are applicable in the field of education, in accordance with our license agreement.
3. If a student is unwilling or protesting or resistant and it cannot be handled in the classroom by caring communication, word clearing or other study technology tools, or by very light discipline, Quality Assurance needs to be aware of the full range of possible causes and investigate by observation and other means. Actions taken may include routing the student to Quality

Assurance for interview, word clearing, educational assessments or other actions, investigating the teacher's actions and methods and correcting the teacher as needed, interviewing parents or carers about situations outside of school, helping parents and so on. If the student has a definite ethical problem, our policy is to address the ethical problem first and then send the student to Quality Assurance for help.

4. If a choice cannot or should not be given to the student, our policy is not to offer it. For example, we would not offer the choice of studying or not studying Maths, or of distracting or not distracting fellow students. The expectations of the vast majority of our parents and the requirements of NESA (which have the status of law) do not allow choice on matters such as attendance and many curriculum requirements. Students who prefer a greater degree of choice, may not fit in to our situation, but may well thrive in a special educational environment.
5. Parents must be made aware of how the school functions so that, if a student complains of something at school, they write up the details exactly for the teacher or other appropriate person so that any needed student remedies can be performed, and other actions can be done. Addressing complaints from students without also checking for study barriers can cause problems for all concerned.
6. The school must not enrol (or continue to try and service)
 - a) students who, despite being aware of the above 5 points and the reasons for them, and despite correct handlings within the area of the school's duty, cannot agree with the points or cannot operate within them.
 - b) students whose parents or carers cannot agree with or operate within those 5 points.
 - c) students/parents/carers who cannot agree with the philosophy of the school and using How to Make Good Choices or approved Athena School Policy or Educational Orders including the Athena School Rules.

Approved by the
Executive Council & Board of Directors
of The Athena School Limited