The recent incident at Nightcliff Middle School has highlighted issues of classroom behaviour and the capacity of schools to deal with anti-social behaviour.

Shadow Minister for Education, Peter Chandler, said boundaries need to be set at home – and these should be reinforced at school.

"Schools can only do this with adequate resources and effective policies to deal with bullying and other issues associated with anti-social behaviour," Mr Chandler said.

"Last year, the Country Liberals committed to employing an additional 20 school-based psychologists in primary schools to help deal with issues of student behaviour.

"So much is demanded of teachers today that is not directly related to teaching children.

"Their focus is diverted away from curriculum delivery to satisfy increased bureaucratic requirements.

"That is why classrooms should have additional resources to help identify children with serious behavioural issues and to be able to effectively deal with those issues.

"No doubt, a disruptive classroom affects overall student outcomes.

"The more effectively we can deal with anti-social behaviour in our schools, the better the educational outcomes will be in the Northern Territory.

"The Country Liberals have also committed to developing facilities for students who are suspended from mainstream schools.

"These would be resourced to meet specific disciplinary and behavioural needs, as well as provide the necessary academic structure.

"In Government, the Country Liberals will also recruit classroom support staff to assist teachers in focussing on academic outcomes.

"The Country Liberals recognise that support at the classroom level is a necessity if we are to lift the educational outcomes of students in the Northern Territory."

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