



Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy

Ratified by School Council: August 2019
Review Date: August 2021

Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students and members of our school community understand:

- Our commitment to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students
- Expectations for positive student behaviour
- Support available to students and families
- Our school's policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour.

Wedge Park Primary School is committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment for all students. We understand that students reach their full potential only when they are happy, healthy and safe, and that a positive school culture helps to engage students and support them in their learning. Our school acknowledges that student wellbeing and student learning outcomes are closely linked.

It is fundamental to acknowledge that each teacher and staff member is a vital source of support and a determinant in the success of their students. The teachers at this school will work collectively

The objective of this policy is to support our school to create and maintain a safe, supportive and inclusive school environment consistent with our school's values.

Scope

This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions.

Implementation

1. School values, philosophy and vision

Wedge Park Primary School's values are Responsible, Respectful and Learning

As a School Community, we create an environment where every student matters and every moment counts.

We aim to:

- ensure high quality teaching through professional learning, feedback, teamwork, collegiate support and communication.
- respect and develop the unique and individual strengths, talents and needs of every child through fostering a positive growth mind set.
- develop every students Literacy, Numeracy and 21st century skills to enable students to be successful in a changing world.
- Promote a positive working and learning environment where contributions are recognised and celebrated.
- welcome community involvement through an open, supportive and consultative environment where contributions are valued.
- create an environment where everyone is encouraged to strive for excellence in an atmosphere of confidence, safety, enjoyment and active participation.

- challenge students to grow academically, socially, emotionally, physically and creatively to their full potential whilst demonstrating the core values of the school: Responsible, Respectful, Learners

2. Engagement strategies

Wedge Park Primary School has developed a range of strategies to promote engagement, positive behaviour, equality and respectful relationships for all students in our school. We acknowledge that all students have individual social, emotional and/or educational needs at school, and that the needs of students will change over time as they grow and learn.

Universal

- high and consistent expectations of all staff, students and parents and carers
- prioritise positive relationships between staff and students, recognising the fundamental role this plays in building and sustaining student wellbeing
- creating a culture that is inclusive, engaging and supportive
- welcoming all parents/carers and being responsive to them as partners in learning
- analysing and being responsive to a range of school data such as attendance, Attitudes to School Survey, parent survey data, student management data (Compass) and school level assessment data
- our school values of responsible, respectful and learning are incorporated into our curriculum and promoted to students, staff and parents so that they are shared and celebrated as the foundation of our school community
- carefully planned transition programs to support students moving into different stages of their schooling
- positive behaviour and student achievement is acknowledged in the classroom, and formally in school assemblies and in communication to parents and the community
- monitor student attendance and implement attendance improvement strategies at a whole-school, cohort and individual level
- Students have the opportunity to contribute to and provide feedback on decisions about school operations through the Student Leadership Team, Student Representative Council and other informal forums. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, PLT Leaders, TLCs, Assistant Principals and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through sporting events, music programs and buddy program
- our staff are committed to referring any student in need to the Student Wellbeing Team. Students are welcome to approach Classroom Teachers to discuss a particular issue if they may need support of any kind. We are proud to have an ‘open door’ policy where students and staff are partners in learning
- we engage in school wide positive behaviour support with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:
 - Respectful Relationships
 - Social and Emotional Learning
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, clubs, recess and lunchtime activities)

Targeted

- each year level has a PLT Leader, TLC and Assistant Principal responsible for their year, who monitors the health and wellbeing of students across their cohort, and act as a point of contact for students who may need additional support
- connect all Koorie students with a Koorie Engagement Support Officer and have an Individual Education Plan

- all students in Out of Home Care will be appointed a Learning Mentor, have an Individual Learning Plan and will be referred to Student Support Services for an Educational Needs Assessment
- The Student Wellbeing team will undertake health promotion and social skills development in response to needs identified by student wellbeing data, classroom teachers or other school staff each year
- staff will apply a trauma-informed approach to working with students who have experienced trauma

Individual

- student Support Groups
- individual Learning Plan and Behaviour Support Plan
- program for Students with Disabilities
- referral to Student Welfare Coordinator and Student Support Services
- referral to Child First, Headspace
- lookout
- Wedge Park Primary School implements a range of strategies that support and promote individual engagement. These can include:
 - building constructive relationships with students at risk or students who are vulnerable due to complex individual circumstances
 - meeting with student and their parent/carer to talk about how best to help the student engage with school
 - developing an Individual Learning Plan, Attendance Improvement Plan and/or Positive Behaviour Plan
 - considering if any environmental changes need to be made, for example changing the classroom set up
 - referring the student to:
 - Student Wellbeing Team
 - Student Support Services
 - Appropriate external supports such as council based youth and family services, other allied health professionals, headspace, child and adolescent mental health services or Child First
- Where necessary the school will support the student's family to engage by:
 - being responsive and sensitive to changes in the student's circumstances and health and wellbeing
 - collaborating, where appropriate and with the support of the student and their family, with any external allied health professionals, services or agencies that are supporting the student
 - monitoring individual student attendance and developing an Attendance Improvement Plans in collaboration with the student and their family
- running regular Student Support Group meetings for all students:
 - PSD and other students as required
 - in Out of Home Care
 - and with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring
 - coordinating NDIS school based Allied Health Supports

3. Identifying students in need of support

Wedge Park Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. The Student Wellbeing Team plays a significant role in developing and implementing strategies, help identify students in need of support and enhance

student wellbeing. Wedge Park Primary School will utilise the following information and tools to identify students in need of extra emotional, social or educational support:

- personal, health and learning information gathered upon enrolment and while the student is enrolled
- academic performance
- observations by school staff such as changes in engagement, behaviour, self-care, social connectedness and motivation
- Compass data
 - general wellbeing data
 - attitude and behaviour data
 - attendance records
- current health data
- engagement with families
- referral process for welfare and learning team
- handover information

4. Student rights and responsibilities

Our school rules, values, rights and responsibilities are prescribed so that students can enjoy a safe learning environment and actively pursue high levels of academic achievement and social and emotional development, with a view to becoming well-adjusted life-long learners. We are committed to building and maintaining a cooperative and supportive partnership between home and school to achieve positive outcomes for all students.

Rights	Responsibilities
<p>Students have a right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ have a voice regarding their learning ▪ equal opportunities regardless of their gender, age, impairments, sexual orientation, physical features, religious beliefs or personal associations in all areas of learning. ▪ celebrate and share their culture with the school community ▪ learn in a safe and secure environment where they can fully develop their knowledge and skills without intimidation, harassment, bullying or cyber-bullying. ▪ participate fully in the school’s educational program regardless of their intellectual and physical disabilities. ▪ receive reasonable assistance to resolve school-related problems (academic and behavioural) ▪ receive ongoing communication and feedback about their progress ▪ talk to teachers/trusted adults on issues that negatively impact their health and wellbeing. 	<p>Students have a responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● follow the SWPBS student matrix, staff instructions and uniform requirements ● take responsibility for their own behaviour and learning ● display positive behaviours, including courtesy, care and respect for the rights of peers, teachers and all members of the school community ● care for the school environment ● attend school regularly and participate fully in learning programs ● develop into independent learners who set and achieve learning goals and manage resources effectively. ● care for their own wellbeing and their property (ipad, hats, satchels, clothing, and lunchboxes).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● showcase their talents and skills in extracurricular activities. 	
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Students who may have a complaint or concern about something that has happened at school are encouraged to speak to their parents or carers and approach a trusted teacher or a member of the school leadership team.

5. Staff behavioural expectations

Wedge Park Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Our school community recognises the importance of, and a responsibility for, ensuring our school is a safe, supportive and enriching environment which respects and fosters the dignity and self-esteem of children and young people, and enables them to thrive in their learning and development.

Acceptable behaviours	Unacceptable behaviours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● upholding school values between the staff and students. ● Showing respect to students and families in the school community, respecting each others beliefs and actions. ● listening and responding to the views and concerns of students, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child has been abused or that they are worried about their safety/the safety of another child ● develop policies to promote cultural safe, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. ● develop policies to promote cultural safe, participation and empowerment of students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds. ● develop policies to promote safety, participation and empowerment of students with a disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse ● develop a relationship with any student which may be interrupted as favouritism or grooming. ● display behaviours or engage in activities with students that could be interpreted as abusive.

Behavioural expectations of students, staff and families are grounded in our school’s Statement of Values. Student bullying behaviour will be responded to consistently with Wedge Park Primary School’s Bullying policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Wedge Park Primary School will institute a staged response, consistent with the Department’s Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidelines. Where appropriate, parents will be informed about the inappropriate behaviour and the disciplinary action taken by teachers and other school staff.

Disciplinary measures may be used as part of a staged response to inappropriate behaviour in combination with other engagement and support strategies to ensure that factors that may have contributed to the student’s behaviour are identified and addressed. Disciplinary measures at our college will be applied fairly and consistently. Students will always be provided with an opportunity to be heard.

Disciplinary measures that may be applied include:

- warning a student that their behaviour is inappropriate
- teacher controlled consequences such as moving a student in a classroom or other reasonable and proportionate responses to misbehaviour
- withdrawal of privileges
- referral to the Assistant Principal
- restorative practices
- mediations
- behaviour reviews
- suspension
- expulsion

Suspension and expulsion are measures of last resort and may only be used in particular situations consistent with Department policy, available at:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/engagement.aspx>

Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school and will not be used in any circumstance.

6. Engaging with families

Wedge Park Primary School values the input of parents and carers, and we will strive to support families to engage in their child's learning and build their capacity as active learners. We aim to be partners in learning with parents and carers in our school community.

We work hard to create successful partnerships with parents and carers by:

- ensuring that all parents have access to our school policies and procedures, available on our school website
- maintaining an open, respectful line of communication between parents and staff
- communicating with families through COMPASS and school newsletter
- providing parent volunteer opportunities so that families can contribute to school activities
- engaging families by hosting family fun night, STEM night, health night
- facilitating parent teacher interviews twice a year
- involving families in school decision making (School council)
- coordinating resources and services from the community for families
- including families in Student Support Groups, and developing individual goals for students
- including families in the development of Indigenous Education Plans

7. Evaluation

Wedge Park Primary School will collect data each year to understand the frequency and types of wellbeing issues that are experienced by our students so that we can measure the success or otherwise of our school based strategies and identify emerging trends or needs.

Sources of data that will be assessed on an annual basis include:

- student survey data
- Compass Data
 - incidents data
 - attendance data
- school reports
- parent survey
- case management
- CASES21
- SOCS

- Statement of Values and School Philosophy,
- Bullying Prevention
- Child Safe Standards
- Duty of Care Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy