

1.

Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy

Purpose

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

- a) Our commitment to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for students
- b) Expectations for positive student behaviour
- c) Support is available to students and families
- d) Our school's policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour

Wantirna 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.

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 values.

Scope

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

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POLICY

1. School Profile

Wantirna Primary School is located on Mountain Highway in Wantirna and boasts an original school house dating back to 1912. The current enrolment is around 100 students with a capacity to host up to 20 International Students, for which we were accredited in 2018. Our staff consists of a Principal, Business Manager, 4 multi-age classrooms including one shared grade, a Physical Education Teacher, Performing Arts and Visual Arts Specialist Teacher. Three ES staff support our students as well as a Chaplain one day per week and we currently employ our own cleaning staff. The Wantirna Primary School Council manages an Out of School Hours Care Service which is well supported by our families.

Wantirna Primary School provides an engaging and stimulating learning environment where students are challenged and supported to achieve their full potential. Our community proudly demonstrates our CARE values of Compassion, Achievement, Respect and Engagement. We deliver a comprehensive educational program which encourages a culture of social responsibility, tolerance and resilience. Through exemplary teaching practice, our school supports the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for success in our global community. Wantirna Primary School focuses on the provision of a high quality core curriculum in Literacy and Numeracy supported by an Inquiry Approach to learning and a stand-alone Science program. Staff at Wantirna Primary School are engaged in ongoing professional learning in order to improve outcomes for all students, by ensuring instruction is adapted to the individual needs of students and feedback is timely and targeted.

Our Specialist subjects offered include Physical Education, with a strong emphasis on skill development and we celebrated student success at both District and Division level in 2018. Our Visual Art program continues to provide diverse experiences, with the expansion of previous opportunities and the sourcing of new scope for our students to be involved in diverse events such as the Moran Photography Competition in 2018 and a visit to the Australian Council for Contemporary Art and related art activities. Performing Arts has grown in strength over the past three years and has enabled our students to showcase their talents in our Whole School Production each year. Spanish is taught as a component of the classroom program with a focus on developing vocabulary, conversation and cultural awareness.

Students are supported to take responsibility for their own behaviour with the development of the Class Agreements to ensure their ownership of contributing to a safe, caring and supportive learning environment. Student voice is acknowledged and celebrated with the strong leadership programs offered throughout the school. The Year 6 cohort having the opportunity to seek captains' roles and participate in a unique Student Leadership Training Day. In addition to the weekly management of the Whole School Assembly, student leaders engaged in community activities such as serving lunch for the Wantirna Friendship Group in 2017 and 2018. Behaviour management strategies use restorative practices and parents and caregivers are closely involved with this process. Wantirna Primary School is committed to regular communication which is consistent and responsive to the needs of our community.

2. School mission, values, philosophy and vision

Wantirna Primary School is committed to providing high quality education and assisting young people to become active, engaged and responsible citizens of the local and global community. The school aims to prepare students to contend with a very dynamic 21st century in which creativity, cooperative work, connectedness to the world and adaptability are key features

The school's positive learning environment cares for and supports children's development as individuals and provides them with the appropriate skills for their continuing education by:

- Focusing on the schools' core values of **C.A.R.E.** –
- **C**ompassion;
- **A**chieve;
- **R**espect; &
- **E**ngage.
- Consistently implementing 'Classroom Expectations';
- Promoting a safe and caring environment;
- Providing all students with a fulfilling and challenging education, appropriate to their abilities;
- Encouraging students to take pride and to value their potential by building on strengths and experiences;
- Supporting and encouraging students to take on new challenges;
- Celebrating students' achievements and efforts through recognition and rewards;
- Developing life skills of responsibility, decision making, communication, collaboration, relationship building and leadership;
- Promoting confidence, self-discipline, self-esteem and responsibility through the Restorative Practices program;
- Providing students with positive experiences which model tolerance, equal opportunity, care and respect of others.

The school fosters positive values through:

- Focus on the Tribes Program which promotes consistent language across the school based on shared agreements: attentive listening, appreciation/no put downs, mutual respect, the right to pass and safety first
- Restorative Practice philosophies, including 'Community Circle' discussion;
- Student leadership encompassing Junior School Council, Year 6 Student Leadership and Captains' Roles, Buddies;
- Student of the Week awards;
- Transition programs that assist pre-school and Years 5 and 6 students;
- Strong links with a range of support agencies.

The Wantirna Primary School philosophy includes values a quality education for all student through the core components of:

- A shared commitment between school and community;
- A caring, supportive and positive learning environment;

Fostering positive values;

- A coordinated whole school curriculum;
- Ongoing learning and success for all students;
- Professional learning teams;
- Planned management and improvement of school resources and facilities.

The school aims to enhance the shared commitment between school and community through:

- Encouragement of all to actively participate in the life of the school;
- Empowerment of each group within the decision making processes;
- Active parent participation in School Council and its committees;
- Regular involvement of parents in classroom programs, parent information sessions, education programs and forums;
- Extensive student leadership opportunities.

The coordinated whole school curriculum is based on the key areas of:

- The Victorian Curriculum is based on best practice and include knowledge and skills in the areas of physical, social and personal learnings, arranged in the three connected areas of learning called strands:
- Learn about themselves and their place in society;
- Learn how to stay healthy and active;
- Develop skills in building relationships and working with others;
- Take responsibility for their learning, and learn about their rights and responsibility as global citizens;
- Learn the knowledge, skills and behaviours in the Arts, English, Humanities, Mathematics and Science;
- Explore different ways of thinking, solving and communicating;
- Learn to use a range of technologies to plan, annualize and evaluate and create their work;
- Learn about creativity, design, principles and processors.

3. Engagement Strategies

Wantirna Primary School has developed a range of strategies to promote engagement, positive behaviour and respectful relationships for all students in our school. We acknowledge that some students may need extra social, emotional or educational support at school, and that the needs of students will change over time as they grow and learn.

A summary of the whole school engagement strategies used by our school is included below:

- 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 Opinion Survey, Student Management Data and School Level Assessment Data (Panorama Report, School Performance Report etc.)
- Offer a broad range of extra-curricular programs to support inclusion including interschool sport teams, instrumental music, dance programs, maths extension, sports clinics, lunchtime clubs which are tailored to student needs and interests
- Teachers at Wantirna Primary School adopt a broad range of teaching and assessment approaches to effectively respond to the diverse learning styles, strengths and needs of our students and follow the AITSL standards and those established by the Victorian Institute of Teaching
- Our school's CARE Values 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 communication to parents
- Students have the opportunity to contribute to and provide feedback on decisions about school operations through the Junior School Council and Year 6 Student Leadership Group
- Students are also encouraged to speak to their classroom teacher, specialist teachers, the Principal or Chaplain if they have any questions or concerns
- Create opportunities for cross age connections through our Better Buddies Program, School Production, Harmony Day, Twilight Sports, Inquiry Units, Learning Expos and other special school events
- We are proud of our 'open door' policy where students, staff and parents are partners in learning
- We engage in the Tribes approach to wellbeing which incorporates
 - Community Circles
 - Restorative Practices
 - Classroom Agreements
- Programs, incursions and excursions may be developed to address specific behaviour

Targeted

- Any student in Out of Home Care will be appointed a Learning Mentor, have an Individual Education Plan and will be referred to Student Support Services for an Educational Needs Assessment

Individual

- Student Support Groups
- Individual Education Plan
- Behaviour Support Plan
- Program for Students with Disabilities
- Look Out Centre
- Koorie Education Support Officer
- Referral to outside health services
- School Chaplain

Wantirna 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 the student and their parent/carer to discuss how best to support their engagement with school
- Developing an Individual Education Plan or Behaviour Support Plan
- Considering environmental factors such as classroom arrangement
- Referring the student to:
 - School based wellbeing programs
 - Student Support Services
 - Appropriate external supports such as council based youth and family services, other allied health professionals
 - Other re-engagement programs

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 who are supporting the student
- Monitoring individual student attendance and developing an Attendance Improvement Plan in collaboration with the student and their family
- Scheduling regular Student Support Group meetings for all students
 - Funded under the PSD Program
 - In Out of Home Care
 - with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring

4. Identifying students in need of support

Wantirna Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported academically, socially and emotionally. The staff are able to identify students in need of support and together with the Principal utilise the resources available to ensure the school caters for all students’ needs. The information used includes:

- Personal, health and learning information gathered upon enrolment and while the student is enrolled
- Attendance records
- Academic performance
- Observations by school staff such as changes in engagement, behaviour, self-care, social connectedness and motivation
- Engagement with families
- Self-referrals or referrals from peers

5. Students rights and responsibilities

All members of our school community have the right to experience a safe and supportive school environment. We expect that all students, staff and parents and carers uphold the CARE Values of the school.

Compassion

- Show empathy to others (this involves not bullying, including cyber bullying, spreading rumours, fighting, touching, teasing and not being a bystander)

Achieve

- Strive to be their best
- Recognise that they have unlimited potential
- Do their personal best in all learning areas at all times
- Recognise that achieving as a team is A-OK!

Respect

- Respect their own property, school property, cultures, environment and their right to learn
- Use their manners (this includes not swearing including in other languages, not talking over others and listening to others)

Engage

- Follow teachers' instructions
- Allow teachers to teach without interruption
- Accept responsibility for their own actions
- Attend and actively participate in all classes
- Accept teachers' decisions

Students who have a concern about an incident at school are encouraged to speak to their parents or carers and approach a trusted teacher, the Chaplain or the Principal as soon as possible.

6. Student behavioural expectations

The behavioural expectations of students, staff and families are based on our school CARE values. Student bullying behaviour will be managed consistent with the Wantirna Primary School's Anti Bullying Policy.

When a student acts in breach of our behaviour expectations, Wantirna Primary School may impose consequences to institute a staged response consistent with the DET's Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidelines. Where appropriate, parents will be informed about the inappropriate behaviour and the related consequences enacted by teachers and the Principal.

Consequences imposed as a response to inappropriate behaviour will be in accordance with our behaviour management process. This supports strategies to ensure that factors which may have contributed to the student's behaviour are identified and addressed. Consequences at our school will be applied fairly and consistently. Students will always be provided with the opportunity to be heard.

Measures that may be applied in the management of inappropriate behaviours:

- A warning issued by the teacher
- Teacher controlled consequence such as moving a student within the classroom, or to a neighbouring classroom
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Referral to the Principal
- Restorative Practices
- Student Behaviour Reflection Sheets (Classroom and Playground)
- Behaviour Management Plans
- In-school suspension
- Out of school suspension
- Expulsion

Suspension and expulsion are measures of last resort and may only be implemented in particular situations consistent with Department Policy available at <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/expulsions.aspx>

7. Engaging with families

Wantirna Primary School values in 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 the following:


- All parents have access to our school policies and procedures available on our website
- Maintaining an open, respectful line of communication between parents and staff, supported by our Communication Policy
- Providing parent volunteer opportunities so that families can contribute to school activities
- Involving families with homework and other curriculum-related activities
- Involving families in school decision making
- Coordinating resources and services from the community for families
- Including families in Student Support Groups and developing Individual Education Plans for students

References:

- Duty of Care Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Child Safe Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Responding to Incidents, Disclosures and Suspicions of Child Abuse
- Child Safe Standards Policy
- Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment (including Cyber Bullying) Policy

Evaluation

Evaluation of this policy will be carried out by the Education Committee as part of the cyclic review process in three years’ time or beforehand if a significant need arises.

Date Implemented	May 2019
Author	Education Committee:
Approved By	School Council
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	 #EDDMAR
Date Reviewed	May 2019
Responsible for Review	School Council
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