

# Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy

Responsibility: Wellbeing Leader

Endorsed by Council: June, 2022

Due for Review: June, 2023



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Wooranna Park Primary School via phone (03) 9795 2007 or email [wooranna.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:wooranna.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au).

<b>Rationale</b>	<p>To ensure that Wooranna Park Primary School meets the requirements of the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority, our Student Engagement Policy includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Details in relation to monitoring the daily attendance of each student enrolled at the school.</li><li>• Policies and procedures that ensure that the care, safety and welfare of students is in accordance with any applicable State and Commonwealth law (including student welfare and bullying, cyberbullying and harassment)</li><li>• Policies relating to the discipline of students that are based on principles of procedural fairness and include an explicit statement that corporal punishment is not permitted.</li></ul>
<b>School Profile</b>	<p>Wooranna Park is a government primary school in Wooranna Park servicing the community of one of Australia's most diverse urban areas. In 2022, the school has a student population of 289 students and our teaching class consists of classroom and specialist teachers. We have a team of integration aides to support students wellbeing and academic needs across the school's learning community.</p> <p>It is the aim of the school to promote academic excellence and in so doing develop lively, enquiring minds, with powers of sound judgement, along with the following personal attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• creative self expression</li><li>• physical and mental health</li><li>• a sense of worth and respect for others</li><li>• an appreciation of the cultural diversity of our society</li><li>• a commitment to acceptable personal social values</li><li>• a sense of national identity.</li></ul> <p>The school has adopted an inter-disciplinary, research based approach, to the development of curriculum, with an emphasis on deep and authentic learning experiences. All teachers work collaboratively in team teaching units, in order to model collaborative skills and to facilitate the provision of a differentiated curriculum.</p>

<p><b>School Values, Vision and Philosophy</b></p>	<p><i>Philosophy</i>  Wooranna Park Primary School has believed for a long time that a one size fits all paradigm, driven by a deficit model, exam orientation and lacking in authenticity runs counter to the idea that education will improve the lives of students, their families and mankind as a whole. We believe that engaged students will develop responsibility and enthusiasm for their own learning, will be empowered to continue learning and improving and will develop a sense of purpose in life.</p> <p>Professional Learning time is allocated throughout the year for staff to examine their practice within the philosophy using one of two scheduled meeting times per week.</p> <p>Professional Development plans are reviewed for evidence that staff philosophy and practice are aligned with the school philosophy and practice.</p> <p><i>Vision</i>  If our students are to maximize their learning, then Wooranna Park Primary School must be a place of optimism, excitement and challenge, where students and teachers see each day as a journey, full of purpose and where intellectual engagement and connectedness to the outside world are priorities.</p> <p><i>Values</i>  Wooranna Park Primary School's values are encompassed in the motto of being Safe, Respectful, Responsible.</p> <p>We respect and believe in ourselves, our school and one another, and understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people around us.</p> <p>We model and demonstrate the pursuit of learning, finding purpose in life and through 'making a difference'. We take every opportunity to help others and ourselves to dream, plan and reach goals.</p> <p>We strive for excellence in achievement, which means trying our hardest and doing our best.</p>
<p><b>Wellbeing and Engagement Strategies</b></p>	<p>Wooranna Park 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.</p> <p>A summary of the universal (whole of school), targeted (year group specific) and individual engagement strategies used by our school is included below:</p> <p><i>Universal</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● high and consistent expectations of all staff, students and parents and carers</li> <li>● prioritise positive relationships between staff and students, recognising the fundamental role this plays in building and sustaining student wellbeing</li> <li>● creating a culture that is inclusive, engaging and supportive</li> <li>● welcoming all parents/carers and being responsive to them as partners in learning</li> <li>● analysing and being responsive to a range of school data such as attendance, Attitudes to School Survey, parent survey data, student management data and school level assessment data</li> </ul>

- teachers at Wooranna Park Primary School use an High Impact Teaching Strategy instructional framework to ensure an explicit, common and shared model of instruction to ensure that evidenced-based, high yield teaching practices are incorporated into all lessons
- teachers at Wooranna Park 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 standards set by the Victorian Institute of Teaching
- our school's Statement of 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
- 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 and other forums including year group meetings and Peer Support Groups. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Year Level Coordinator, Assistant Principals and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through school plays, athletics, music programs and peer support programs
- All students are welcome to self-refer to the School Chaplain, Year Level Leaders, Assistant Principals and Principal if they would like to discuss a particular issue or feel as though 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
  - Safe Schools
  - Smiling Minds
  - CASEA
- programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific behaviour (i.e. anger management programs)
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, clubs, recess and lunchtime activities)
- buddy programs, peers support programs

*Targeted*

- each year group has a Year Group Leader/Coordinator, a senior teacher responsible for their year, who monitor the health and wellbeing of students in their year, and act as a point of contact for students who may need additional support
- connect all Koorie students with a Koorie Engagement Support Officer (KESO) and the school's *Koorie Club*
- wellbeing and health staff 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

- we provide a positive and respectful learning environment for our students who identify as LGBTIQ+ and follow the Department's policy on [LGBTIQ Student Support](#)
- all students in Out of Home Care are supported in accordance with the Department's policy on [Supporting Students in Out-of-Home Care](#) including being appointed a Learning Mentor, having an Individual Learning Plan and a Student Support Group (SSG) and being referred to Student Support Services for an Educational Needs Assessment
- students with a disability are supported to be able to engage fully in their learning and school activities in accordance with the Department's policy on [Students with Disability](#), such as through reasonable adjustments to support access to learning programs, consultation with families and where required, student support groups and individual education plans
- wellbeing and health staff 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
- students enrolled under the Department's international student program are supported in accordance with our legal obligations and Department policy and guidelines at: [International Student Program](#)

#### *Individual*

Wooranna 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 and/or a Behaviour Support Plan
- considering if any environmental changes need to be made, for example changing the classroom set up
- referring the student to:
  - school-based wellbeing supports
  - 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 ChildFirst
  - Re-engagement programs such as Navigator

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● running regular Student Support Group meetings for all students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- with a disability</li> <li>- in Out of Home Care</li> <li>- and with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Relevant Links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Student Support Groups</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Individual Education Plans</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Behaviour - Students</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Behaviour Support Plans</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Student Support Services</a></li> </ul> <p>as well as to other Department programs and services such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Program for Students with Disabilities</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Mental health toolkit</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">headspace</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Navigator</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">LOOKOUT</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Identifying students in need of support</b></p>	<p>Wooranna 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 to help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Wooranna Park Primary School will utilise the following information and tools to identify students in need of extra emotional, social or educational support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● personal, health and learning information gathered upon enrolment and while the student is enrolled</li> <li>● attendance records</li> <li>● academic performance</li> <li>● observations by school staff such as changes in engagement, behaviour, self-care, social connectedness and motivation</li> <li>● attendance, detention and suspension data</li> <li>● engagement with families</li> <li>● self-referrals or referrals from peers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Students rights and responsibilities</b></p>	<p>All members of our school community have a right to experience a safe and supportive school environment. We expect that all students, staff, parents and carers treat each other with respect and dignity. Our school's Statement of Values highlights the rights and responsibilities of members of our community.</p> <p>Students have the right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● participate fully in their education</li> <li>● feel safe, secure and happy at school</li> <li>● learn in an environment free from bullying, harassment, violence, discrimination or intimidation</li> <li>● express their ideas, feelings and concerns.</li> </ul> <p>Students have the responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● participate fully in their educational program</li> <li>● display positive behaviours that demonstrate respect for themselves, their peers, their teachers and members of the school community</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● respect the right of others to learn.</li> </ul> <p>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. Further information about raising a complaint or concern is available in our Complaints Policy.</p>
<p><b>Students behavioural expectations and management</b></p>	<p>Behavioural expectations of students are grounded in our school's Statement of Values and Student Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Violence, bullying, and other offensive and harmful behaviours such as racism, harassment and discrimination will not be tolerated and will be managed in accordance with this policy. Bullying will be managed in accordance with our Bullying Prevention Policy.</p> <p>When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Wooranna Park Primary School will institute a staged response, consistent with the Department's policies on behaviour, discipline and student wellbeing and engagement. Where appropriate, parents will be informed about the inappropriate behaviour and the disciplinary action taken by teachers and other school staff.</p> <p>Our school considers, explores and implements positive and non-punitive interventions to support student behaviour before considering disciplinary measures such as detention, withdrawal of privileges or withdrawal from class.</p> <p>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 school will be applied fairly and consistently. Students will always be provided with an opportunity to be heard.</p> <p>Disciplinary measures that may be applied include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● warning a student that their behaviour is inappropriate</li> <li>● teacher controlled consequences such as moving a student in a classroom or other reasonable and proportionate responses to misbehaviour</li> <li>● withdrawal of privileges</li> <li>● referral to the year level PLC Leader</li> <li>● restorative practices</li> <li>● Detentions</li> <li>● behaviour support and intervention meetings</li> <li>● Suspension</li> <li>● expulsion</li> </ul> <p>Suspension, expulsion and restrictive interventions are measures of last resort and may only be used in situations consistent with Department policy, available at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/suspensions/policy">https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/suspensions/policy</a></li> <li>● <a href="https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/expulsions/policy">https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/expulsions/policy</a></li> <li>● <a href="https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/restraint-seclusion/policy">https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/restraint-seclusion/policy</a></li> </ul> <p>In line with Ministerial Order 1125, no student aged 8 or younger will be expelled without the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Education and Training.</p>

	<p>The Principal of Wooranna Park Primary School is responsible for ensuring all suspensions and expulsions are recorded on CASES21.</p> <p>Corporal punishment is prohibited by law and will not be used in any circumstance at our school.</p>
<b>Engaging with families</b>	<p>Wooranna 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ensuring that all parents have access to our school policies and procedures, available on our school website</li> <li>● maintaining an open, respectful line of communication between parents and staff, supported by our Communicating with School Staff policy.</li> <li>● providing parent volunteer opportunities so that families can contribute to school activities</li> <li>● involving families with homework and other curriculum-related activities</li> <li>● involving families in school decision making</li> <li>● coordinating resources and services from the community for families</li> <li>● including families in Student Support Groups, and developing individual plans for students.</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation</b>	<p>Wooranna 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● student survey data</li> <li>● incidents data</li> <li>● school reports</li> <li>● parent survey</li> <li>● case management</li> <li>● CASES21, including attendance and absence data</li> <li>● SOCS</li> </ul> <p>Wooranna Park Primary School will also regularly monitor available data dashboards to ensure any wellbeing or engagement issues are acted upon in a timely manner and any intervention occurs as soon as possible.</p>
<b>communication</b>	<p>This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Available publicly on our school's website</li> <li>● Included in staff induction processes</li> <li>● Included in transition and enrolment packs</li> <li>● Included as annual reference in school newsletter</li> <li>● Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request</li> </ul>

	<p>Our school will also ensure it follows the mandatory parent/carer notification requirements with respect to suspensions and expulsions outlined in the Department's policies at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Suspension process</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Expulsions - Decision</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Further information and resources</b></p>	<p>The following Department of Education and Training policies are relevant to this Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Attendance</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Student Engagement</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Child Safe Standards</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Supporting Students in Out-of-Home Care</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Students with Disability</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">LGBTIQ Student Support</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Behaviour - Students</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Suspensions</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Expulsions</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Restraint and Seclusion</a></li> </ul> <p>The following <a href="#">school policies</a> are also relevant to this Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child Safety Policy</li> <li>● Bullying Prevention Policy</li> <li>● Inclusion and Diversity Policy</li> <li>● Statement of Values and School Philosophy</li> </ul>