



Student Wellbeing and Engagement

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 available to students and families
- (d) our school's policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour.

Werribee 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's values.

Scope

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

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Policy

1. School profile

Werribee Primary School, originally established in 1855, has provided education to the local community from its present site since 1919. It is situated on a compact site, in close proximity to Werribee's retail and commercial centre and approximately 35km south west of Melbourne. The school is in the South West Victorian Region of the Department of Education and Training (DET) and the Wyndham Network of schools.

The school's physical spaces are attractive and well maintained and provide safe and supportive learning environments including; administration, classrooms, gymnasium, multipurpose spaces and a well-resourced library. The grounds encompass attractive gardens, play spaces, synthetic grass games areas and play equipment. Growing enrolments are placing pressure on existing facilities. Accommodation is expected to be an issue over the next four years with projected enrolments of 761 students by 2022. A well-attended before and after school care program operates during school terms and is run by Camp Australia.

The school is proud of its community involvement as parents provide valuable assistance to the school in the classroom, excursions, and whole school events. The School Council is active in supporting many improvement initiatives. The Werribee Friends committee works towards fundraising for the school needs and organising social activities. With the declining volunteer availability over the last few years, strengthening community engagement remains a focus area.

The school is proud of its achievements in Sustainability receiving Five Star certification as a ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic Sustainable School.

Werribee Primary School has a committed and professional staff with a balanced mixture of age and experience. Teachers plan and work in Professional Learning Communities in a collaborative environment with a collective responsibility for all students. The school offers four specialist curriculum areas being: Visual Art, Physical Education, Languages (Spanish) and Music. The school's curriculum framework is based on the Victorian Curriculum. The High



Reliability Schools Framework has been the driver for school reform over the last four years with Classroom Instruction that Works implemented as our whole school instructional model. Strong links and implementation of DET's, Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO) enhance our school improvement journey and planning. The school has embedded the use of data and evidence to ensure growth for all students by the continued development of a guaranteed and viable, differentiated curriculum, targeted at student point of need.

Information, Communication Technology (ICT) is used to support teaching and learning with notebook computers, iPads and large flat screen TVs in all teaching spaces. The school's ICT network, servers and Wi-Fi connectivity has been extensively resourced to ensure a robust platform for our future ICT requirements. In 2018, a 1:1 BYO iPad Program was introduced in the Year 5 & 6 area and will continue for the next four years. Extensive resourcing has occurred over the last three years to enable a rigorous Digital Technologies program for example; BeeBots, OzoBots, Lego WeDo and EV3 Robotics. The School is proud of our 2018 Robotics team, who in their first year of competition made it to the State Finals.

Students are offered a range of extracurricular activities to support their learning, engagement and wellbeing. The school provides a breakfast program and many activities during the lunch break. We value the opportunity to develop student leaders and student voice and agency across the school and this is achieved through the student leadership program, eSMART student team, Biodiversity Education Student Team, and the Junior School Council. The School Wide Positive Behaviours System, Restorative Practices and the Berry Street Education Model are established in the school to support students in their engagement and wellbeing.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

The school's purpose is to be an inclusive learning community that inspires and empowers all to strive for excellence.

The three values of Respect, Resilience and Responsibility underpin everything that the school does.

- Resilience: maintaining a positive attitude
- Respect: caring for ourselves, others and the environment
- Responsibility: being accountable for our actions towards self, others and the environment

3. Engagement strategies

Werribee 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 universal (whole of school), targeted (year group specific) and individual engagement strategies used by our school is included below:

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 and school level assessment data
- teachers at Werribee Primary School use the Classroom Instruction that Works 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 Werribee 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 Representative Council and other forums including year group meetings and Peer Support Groups. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Year Level Coordinator, Assistant Principal 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 Student Wellbeing Team, School Nurse, , Year Level Coordinators, Assistant Principal 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
- 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
- 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
- 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 through the Berry Street Education Model
- Check in/check out systems are used to monitor student behaviour and wellbeing
- Individual Education plans are written to support students on the Program for Students with Disabilities and Student Support Group meetings are held each semester.

Individual

- Student Support Groups, see:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/supportgroups.aspx>
- Individual Education and Behaviour Support Plan
- Program for Students with Disabilities
- referral to Student Welfare Coordinator and Student Support Services
- referral to ChildFirst, Headspace
- Lookout

Werribee 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 Education 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

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:
 - with a disability
 - in Out of Home Care
 - and with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.

4. Identifying students in need of support

Werribee 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. Werribee 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
- attendance records
- academic performance
- observations by school staff such as changes in engagement, behaviour, self-care, social connectedness and motivation
- attendance and suspension data
- engagement with families
- self-referrals or referrals from peers

5. Student rights and responsibilities

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.

Students have the right to:

- participate fully in their education
- feel safe, secure and happy at school
- learn in an environment free from bullying, harassment, violence, discrimination or intimidation
- express their ideas, feelings and concerns.

Students have the responsibility to:

- participate fully in their educational program
- display positive behaviours that demonstrate respect for themselves, their peers, their teachers and members of the school community
- respect the right of others to learn.

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.

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 Werribee Primary School's Bullying policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Werribee 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 school 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 Year Level Coordinator
- restorative practices
- 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

Werribee 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, supported by our Communicating with School Staff 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 plans for students.

7. Evaluation

Werribee 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
- incidents data
- school reports
- parent survey
- case management
- CASES21
- SOCS

Further Information and Resources

School Policies



- Statement of Values and School Philosophy
- Bullying Prevention
- Child Safe Standards.

Review cycle

This policy was last updated on 21 May 2019 and is scheduled for review in May 2021.