

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

Wurruk 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-

Wurruk Primary School is a small rural setting located on the western entrance to Sale, close to the Princes Highway in Gippsland, overlooking the Thompson River. The school opened back in 1883, and this year 2020, proudly opened a brand-new Wurruk Kindergarten learning space onsite.

The School and Kindergarten together are building stronger foundations and closing the gap for our children and their families, enabling access to affordable, high-quality learning environments in our local community of Wurruk. Partnering and openly collaborating with other services to drive positive change for the benefit of all children and their families.

We currently have 50 children enrolled in our educational setting. We run a three-year-old and a four-year-old Kindergarten program and provide three Primary School classrooms, Junior, Middle, and Senior.

Staff members include a Principal, two full-time Classroom Teachers, two part-time Classroom Teachers, One Early Year's Teacher, supported by a Business Manager, an Early Years assistant, and three Education Support staff.

The school sees its core purpose as providing a sound grounding in Literacy, Numeracy, STEAM, and Thinking Skills, which will allow students to develop to their maximum potential through secondary education and

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beyond. The organisation of classes is based on a multi-age structure that encourages and enhances individual achievement and social development. Wurruk Primary School is committed to maximizing the educational opportunities for all students with a strong commitment to staff professional development, playing a vital role in achieving this.

Parents are very supportive, and there is a healthy sense of community, all of which contribute to the advantages and unique qualities that exist in the life of a small rural school.

The School Council is continually working towards improvements in the school facilities, grounds, and curriculum provision to provide the best learning outcomes possible for each student.

Wurruk Primary School is a committed member of the Sale Rural Schools Cluster, enabling us to participate in a community of learners, reducing our small rural communities' isolation. We are also a proud member of the Wellington Schools network, which brings together schools across the Wellington Shire.

We provide a welcoming, family-friendly environment for our diverse community.

School values, philosophy and vision-

MISSION

Wurruk Primary School's mission is to provide a safe, engaging, community-centred learning environment that harnesses the growth and potential of every student.

"Big Enough for Opportunity, Small Enough to Care."

VISION

Wurruk Primary School's vision aims to promote a love of learning and support learners in becoming curious, reflective, and critical thinkers in a rapidly changing world.

OBJECTIVE

Wurruk Primary School's objective is to:

- Foster tolerance, respect, and acceptance of others.
- Build each student's resilience and self-esteem.
- Promote a strong, supportive partnership between home and the school and the wider community.
- To acquire literacy, numeracy, creativity, and communication skills.

VALUES

Wurruk Primary School has developed a set of School Values. FROGS: Friendship, Resilience, Opportunities, Growth, Safety, which we focus on weekly in our assembly and Respectful Relationship program. Daily, we refer to our values in context to encourage common understandings and foster an inclusive and positive environment.

2. Engagement strategies- Wurruk 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

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time as they grow and learn. To realise our mission and vision, our school has in place a range of strategies to promote engagement, positive behaviour and respectful relationships for all students in the school. We recognise that some students, as a group or as individuals may need extra social, emotional or educational support to flourish at school, and so we put in place strategies to identify these students and provide them with the support they need. The school provides a rich extra-curricular program to cater for the needs of all students as well as providing a rich and diverse range of experiences to keep students motivated and engaged. These activities also provide opportunities for parents and members of the community to be actively involved in students' learning. **These include:**

- RRRR Program
- Cultural Language Program
- SWPB approach
- Play therapy
- Art therapy
- Story Dog
- Mentoring Program
- Drumbeats / RLAPH program

3. Identifying students in need of support-

Wurruk Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. The school plays a significant role in developing and implementing strategies help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Wurruk 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, detention and suspension data*
- *engagement with families*
- *self-referrals or referrals from peers*
- *Individual Learning Plans*
- *Behaviour Support Plans*

4. 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.

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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.

5. Student behavioural expectations-

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 our Bully Prevention policy.

Schools have a responsibility to provide an educational environment that ensures all students are valued and cared for, feel they are part of the school, and can engage effectively in their learning and experience success. Wurruk Primary School has implemented the School Wide Positive Behaviour Program since 2016, as part of a Network-wide approach with the Wellington Network. This approach focuses on ensuring that positive student behaviour is acknowledged and encouraged, as well as providing an effective method to monitor, manage and work to improve negative student behaviour. Student behaviour is tracked and recorded by staff in the classroom, playground and bus. Trends in behaviour are discussed with teaching staff, including the Principal, and strategies put in place to implement a whole school approach to positively managing and improving the trended negative behaviour.

Behavioural expectation matrices have been developed by our staff, students and families in our assemblies. Which clearly outline expectations for student, staff and families behaviour whilst at or representing our School or Kindergarten.

Positive acknowledgements are designed to be collaboratively achieved and provide opportunities for all students to achieve a collective success.

Wurruk Primary School seeks to build a positive and inclusive learning environment where all students have the opportunity to experience success. This is supported through inclusive teaching and learning practices and a whole school behaviour management approach. When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Wurruk 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 challenging behaviour in combination with other engagement and support strategies to address the range of factors that may have contributed to the student's behaviour.

Disciplinary measures that may be applied include:

- Restorative Practice discussions with students involved
- Rethinks
- Withdrawal of privileges appropriate to the behaviour
- Time out in the classroom / or another teacher's classroom
- Letters or verbal apologies written/given
- Individual behaviour management plans
- Counselling
- Clean up duties / amend damages
- Notifying parents of behaviours and future behaviour plans

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- Involving community support agencies
- Suspension (in-school and out of school)
- Expulsion within the DET guidelines

Discipline will be applied in a way that is appropriate to the behaviour and upholds the processes of School Wide Positive Behaviour in promoting positive behaviour and applying an appropriate consequence and counselling for negative behaviours.

Suspension and expulsion can only be approved by the principal (or person acting in that role) and Wurruk will follow the process for applying these disciplinary measures set out in the Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidance <http://education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/studentengagementguidance.aspx>

Information on grounds and processes for suspension and expulsion that Boisdale will follow are available from <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/discipline.aspx>

Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school and will not be used, nor tolerated in any circumstance.

6. Engaging with families

Parent involvement is positively encouraged through a range of opportunities. Parent feedback and opinion is sought through the Parent Opinion Survey and through the avenues of School Council representation, Parents and Friends Committee participation and involvement in the classroom, parent information session, as well as sporting and swimming activities and events.

School Council

Parents become actively involved in the decision making process through membership of school council. The group meet once a month to oversee finance, building and grounds with sub committees involved in canteen, parents club and marketing.

Parents in classroom partnerships

Offer their help in a variety of programs including gardening, cooking, reading, classroom activities, Culture language program, Bike ED, excursions, camps, swimming and special events. Their ongoing support is a highly valued aspect of our school life and the school actively fosters an "Open Door" policy.

Working bees

Offer opportunities to take an active role in school maintenance and development. Parent contribution and skills are highly valued within the Wurruk Primary School community.

Teacher, Student, Parent Conferences are held twice a year. These provide an opportunity for students, teachers and parents to discuss learning progression and areas for further development.

Share Our Learning Days with a community BBQ held at the end of each term. Provide an open space for children to share their learning with their families and community member. Celebrating learning together.

The school will support families to engage in their child's learning and build their capacity as active learners. It provides an environment that welcomes all parents/carers and is responsive to them as partners in learning.

7. Evaluation-

Data collection and analysis-

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Behaviour data from the playground and classroom is collected each week and documented using a checklist form to indicate the type of behaviour, response and the timeframe. This data is then collated using a school based database, which can produce reports which are then discussed with staff and parents as appropriate. This data will be used to identify target areas for improved student behaviour and measure the success or otherwise of school-based strategies and approaches.

Some of the sources of data regarding wellbeing issues, behaviour and otherwise, used are:

- the Attitudes to School Survey data
- school level report data
- Parent Survey data
- data extracted from CASES21 or SOCS
- Sentral data

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

For further information please refer to our *Statement of Values and School Philosophy* policy, *Bullying Prevention* policy or *Child Safe Standards*.

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on October 2020 and is scheduled for review on October 2023.