

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.

Deepdene 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.

CONTENTS

1. School profile
2. School values, philosophy and vision
3. Engagement strategies
4. Identifying students in need of support
5. Student rights and responsibilities
6. Student behavioural expectations
7. Engaging with families
8. Evaluation

POLICY

SCHOOL PROFILE

Deepdene Primary School is a highly effective learning community providing learning opportunities for all. It is our goal that individual talents, interests and skills are identified, nurtured and developed so that all students achieve success engendering a high sense of self-confidence and a love of learning.

We offer a quality curriculum based on the Victorian Curriculum in all areas including the Arts, LOTE (French) and Physical Education. Our learning programs are designed to cater for the individual needs of a diverse range of students. These include extension and support programs, both within and beyond classrooms. A range of extra-curricular programs are provided and the school offers an outside of school hours care program.

There is a strong partnership between parents and the school and an evident community atmosphere. Parents participate in our reading program, school council, as classroom helpers, open days, information nights, working bees and various social and fund raising activities.

Deepdene Primary School has a stable enrolment of approximately four hundred and fifty students who are primarily drawn from the surrounding suburbs of Balwyn, Camberwell, Canterbury and Kew.

Our facilities include:

- Well-resourced classrooms
- Specialist rooms for the teaching of LOTE (French) and the Performing and Visual Arts
- Library resource centre
- Designated areas for the teaching of Physical Education
- At least six computers in each classroom
- Computer laboratory with 29 state of the art computers and an interactive whiteboard
- Two class sets of notebook computers
- Two class sets of Windows tablets
- Interactive whiteboard in every classroom as well as the library, shared learning space and computer lab
- The Out of School Hours Care Club – A spacious room onsite at Deepdene and administered by a private provider. The program offers before and after school care and school holiday programs
- Access to Linear Park
- Synthetic grass courts
- Colourful playground equipment suited to all primary age groups

- Shade ports
- A full sized oval
- Indoor gymnasium

Based on annual budgets, the school offers a variety of intervention, enrichment and extension programs to support and enhance student learning. These include:

- Reading support program P - 2
- Extension and enrichment program 1 - 6
- Mathematics Olympiad Years 5 & 6
- Chess club and competitions
- Club 6
- Manningham Drama Eisteddfod
- Performance and Productions at each level of the school
- Boroondara Eisteddfod
- Festival choir, ensemble groups, school band, jazz group
- Instrumental tuition
- Student representative council
- Camps & tours years 3 - 6
- Excursions and in-school workshops and performances for Prep – 6
- Inter-school sport and sports' clinics
- Prep & Year 5 friendship/cross age tutoring (Buddy program)
- Swimming P – Yr 3
- Book Week, Literacy and Numeracy Week
- Various themed dress up days, often with a charity collection (as decided by the SRC)

Information and communication technology is successfully integrated into learning programs at all year levels. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard and

at least six computers. Our well-resourced computer laboratory provides all students with access to a broad variety of challenging educational software programs and learning support equipment (e.g. multimedia projectors, digital cameras, USB computer microscopes). Our school hall has a large screen and data projector.

The teaching staff work collaboratively in curriculum planning and delivery reflecting a strong commitment to teamwork. Equally, parents and teachers work in partnership to provide each child with rich learning experiences, optimising their potential and promoting a friendly, safe and secure learning environment over the seven years of their schooling.

The whole school approach to student welfare focuses on the values of:

- Care and Compassion – care for self and others
- Doing Your Best – try hard and pursue excellence
- Honesty and Trustworthiness – be honest, sincere and seek the truth
- Integrity – ensure consistency between words and deeds
- Respect – treat others with consideration and respect another person’s point of view
- Responsibility – contribute to the school community and take care of the environment
- Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion – show understanding of others and their cultures, treating all people fairly

At Deepdene Primary School we believe:

- Students, parents and teachers work in strong supportive partnership within the school community
- Students work in a safe, secure learning environment and are actively encouraged to be self-motivated, independent life-long learners
- Students work and play cooperatively
- Students make responsible decisions for their behaviour and actions
- Students are challenged, extended, motivated and supported in their learning through high quality instruction

Deepdene Primary School is committed to promoting a highly effective learning community. Energy, enthusiasm, team spirit and effective teamwork between students, parents and all staff members are key features of life at our school.

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Deepdene 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 Deepdene Primary School use High Impact teaching Strategies 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 Deepdene 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
- Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Year Level Area Leader, 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/buddy programs

- All students are welcome to self-refer to the classroom teacher, Area Leaders, 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, which includes programs such as:
 - Friendly Kids, Friendly Classrooms
 - Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships Program
 - School Leadership program
- opportunities for student inclusion i.e. sports teams, sports training, Chess Club, Dance Club, Tennis Lessons, ICT club, Festival Choir, bands and ensembles
- buddy program

TARGETED

- each area group has an Area Leader, who in conjunction with classroom teachers, monitors the health and wellbeing of students in their year, and acts as a point of contact for teachers who may need additional support for students in their class
- connect all Koorie students with a Koorie Engagement Support Officer (when applicable)
- 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
- staff will apply a trauma-informed approach to working with students who have experienced trauma

INDIVIDUAL

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

Deepdene 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
- running regular Student Support Group meetings for all students:
 - with a disability
 - in Out of Home Care
 - with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.

IDENTIFYING STUDENTS IN NEED OF SUPPORT

Deepdene Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. Deepdene 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

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.

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 Deepdene Primary School's Bullying Prevention policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Deepdene Primary School staff will follow the Deepdene Code of Cooperation and Consequences Policy. Where appropriate, parents will be informed about the inappropriate behaviour and the disciplinary action taken by teachers and other school staff.

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
- letter of apology by the student to go home to be signed by the parent
- withdrawal of privileges
- referral to the Year Level Area Leader
- restorative practices
- lunch time detentions
- 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.

ENGAGING WITH FAMILIES

Deepdene 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 at the sign in register on the front desk, and on Compass
- maintaining an open, respectful line of communication between parents and staff
- 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 through Education Team and School Council
- coordinating resources and services from the community for families
- including families in Student Support Groups, and developing Individual Learning Plans for students.

EVALUATION

Deepdene Primary School will collect information 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

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in October 2020 and is scheduled for review in 2022