

# Ballarat North Primary School

## 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.

Ballarat North 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, where student participation is encouraged and valued, 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. Wellbeing and engagement strategies
4. Identifying students in need of support
5. Student rights and responsibilities
6. Student behavioural expectations and management
7. Engaging with families
8. Evaluation

### POLICY

#### 1. School profile

Ballarat North Primary School is situated in the northern part of Ballarat and has a fluctuating enrolment of around 380. The school is set on a substantial site with attractive grounds and excellent facilities including a Multipurpose Centre comprising a gymnasium and Visual Arts facility. Practices reflect the school's core values of care, respect, excellence and community.

The school is committed to providing high quality teaching and learning to maximise the learning growth for all students. A comprehensive curriculum is offered throughout the school with a strong focus on Literacy and Numeracy. Specialist lessons in Visual Arts, Japanese, Physical

Education and Performing Arts are provided to complement class programs. The use of ICT is incorporated across the curriculum, all classrooms being resourced with TVs, iPads and laptop computers.

Student engagement in learning is given high priority, with formative assessment used by teachers to inform their instruction and maintain a curriculum which caters to student needs.

A range of support and enrichment programs are offered to further enhance learning opportunities for students, including Minilit, swimming, athletics, team sports, camps, yarnning groups, play support, excursions, multi-age TEAMS, buddies, choir, a biennial school concert, Year 6 leadership opportunities and private music lessons. A comprehensive special needs program provides intervention and additional assistance for identified students.

A culture of collaboration and reflective practice has been developed, supported by high expectations for all members of the school community. All staff demonstrate a strong commitment to professional learning which is an integral part of the school's ongoing focus on continuous improvement. Teachers work together in Professional Learning Teams (PLTs), meeting regularly to plan, reflect and engage in professional learning.

The school highly values the development of strong home-school partnerships and actively encourages family involvement. Priority is given to ensuring a supportive culture with open two-way communication promoted at all times. The recognition and celebration of effort and achievement within the school community, helps to foster a positive, engaging learning environment.

## **2. School values, philosophy and vision**

Ballarat North Primary School's Statement of Values and School Philosophy is integral to the work that we do and is the foundation of our school community. Students, staff and members of our school community are encouraged to live and demonstrate our core values of Respect, Excellence, Care and Community at every opportunity.

### **Values**

Ballarat North Primary School values are: Respect, Excellence, Care and Community.

- We respect ourselves, our school and each other, and understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people around us.
- We model and demonstrate care, and take every opportunity to help others that may be in need.
- We strive for excellence, which means trying our hardest and doing our personal best.
- We value all members of our community by acknowledging and celebrating our differences, providing a school where all are safe and welcome

### **Mission**

Ballarat North Primary Schools mission is to provide a comprehensive and engaging curriculum which supports all students to reach their potential.

To achieve our aims for students the school:

- Provides a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment
- Offers an engaging and challenging curriculum that caters for the diverse needs of all learners
- Uses a range of effective and innovative teaching approaches

- Adopts practices that enhance student wellbeing and promote positive relationships
- Establishes cooperative learning partnerships with parents and the wider community
- Has high expectations of all students

## Vision

Our school's vision is to empower students to reach their personal best, and fully equip them to contribute positively to society as happy, healthy young adults.

Our Statement of Values and School Philosophy is available online at:

[http:// www.ballaratnthps.vic.edu.au/](http://www.ballaratnthps.vic.edu.au/)

## 3. Wellbeing and engagement strategies

*Ballarat North Primary School has developed a range of strategies to promote engagement, an inclusive and safe environment, positive behaviour, and respectful relationships for all students in our school. We recognise the importance of student friendships and peer support in helping children and students feel safe and less isolated. 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.*

### 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 and that embraces and celebrates diversity and empowers all students to participate and feel valued*
- *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 Ballarat North Primary School use an Instructional model 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 Ballarat North 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 and School Philosophy 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 biannual Performances, Athletics and Cross Country, School Assemblies, and the Buddy/TEAMS programs*
- *we engage in positive behaviour support with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:*
  - *Respectful Relationships*
  - *Smiling Minds*
  - *Cyber Safety*
  - *Real Schools- Restorative Practice*
- *programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific needs or behaviour (i.e. anger management programs)*
- *opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, clubs, recess and lunchtime activities)*
- *measures are in place to empower our school community to identify, report and address inappropriate and harmful behaviours such as racism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination or harassment.*

### 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*
- *Koorie students are supported to engage fully in their education, in a positive learning environment that understands and appreciates the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture including the recognition of Aboriginal celebrations, every student having an IEP, and the option to be involved in a weekly Yarning Group*
- *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*
- *Koorie students are supported to engage fully in their education, in a positive learning environment that understands and appreciates the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture – refer to our [insert name of any other school documentation you have in place outlining the school strategies to support Koorie students] for further information*
- *our English as a second language students are supported through our EAL program, and all cultural and linguistically diverse students are supported to feel safe and included in our school including through [insert any specific strategies you have in place to support CALD students]*
- *we support learning and wellbeing outcomes of students from refugee background through the use of interpreters, family support workers or specific organisations*
- *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 \[insert any specific measures at your school to support LGBTIQ+ students\]](#)*

- *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*
- *Education Support Staff, supervised by Assistant Principal, run a Social and Emotional Intelligence Club-explicitly teaching Personal and Social Capabilities from the Victorian Curriculum*
- *identified students, via DET Speech staff assessment, have daily access to STAP-Speech Trained Assistant Program*
- *identified students, via teaching staff assessment, have daily access to Mini Lit and Macq Lit (evidenced based, small group reading support)*
- *Ballarat North Primary School students are supported by Police in Schools Program*
- *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*

### Individual

- [Student Support Groups](#)
- [Individual Education Plans](#)
- [Behaviour - Students](#)
- [Behaviour Support Plans](#)
- [Student Support Services](#)

as well as to other Department programs and services such as:

- [Program for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [headspace](#)
- [Navigator](#)
- [LOOKOUT](#)

*Ballarat North Primary School implements a range of strategies that support and promote individual engagement. These 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 Child First*
  - *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*
- *engaging with our regional Koorie Engagement Support Officers*
- *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.*

#### **4. Identifying students in need of support**

*Ballarat North Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. Ballarat North 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, time out and suspension data*
- *engagement with families*
- *work with external support agencies as requested*
- *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, racism, 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.

## **6. Student behavioural expectations and management**

*Behavioural expectations of students are grounded in our school's Statement of Values. Student bullying behaviour will be responded to consistently with Ballarat North Primary Schools Bullying Prevention Policy.*

*When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Ballarat North 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.*

*Our school considers, explores and implement positive and non-punitive interventions to support student behaviour before considering disciplinary measures such as time out, withdrawal of privileges or withdrawal from class.*

*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*
- *time out of the classroom and or yard*
- *behaviour support and intervention meetings*
- *behaviour plans with reduced timetable*
- *suspension*
- *expulsion*

Suspension, expulsion and restrictive interventions are measures of last resort and may only be used in situations consistent with Department policy, available at:

- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/suspensions/policy>
- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/expulsions/policy>
- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/restraint-seclusion/policy>

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.

The Principal of Ballarat North Primary School is responsible for ensuring all suspensions and expulsions are recorded on CASES21.

*Corporal punishment is prohibited by law and will not be used in any circumstance at our school.*

## **7. Engaging with families**

Ballarat North 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
- providing parent volunteer opportunities so that families can contribute to school activities (when possible under Covid 19 DET Operational Guidelines)
- 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.

## **8. Evaluation**

Ballarat North 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, including attendance and absence data
- SOCS
- Compass Chronicle entries



Ballarat North 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.

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included in student diaries so that it is easily accessible to parents, carers and students
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

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:

- [Suspension process](#)
- [Expulsions - Decision](#)

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The following Department of Education and Training policies are relevant to this Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy:

- [Attendance](#)
- [Child Safe Standards](#)
- [Supporting Students in Out-of-Home Care](#)
- [Students with Disability](#)
- [Suspensions](#)
- [Expulsions](#)
- [Restraint and Seclusion](#)

The following school policies are also relevant to this Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy:

- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Statement of Values and School Philosophy

The above policies are available on our school website:

<http://www.ballaratnthps.vic.edu.au/>

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June, 2025
Consultation	Leadership Team, School Council
Approved by	Principal, School Council
Next scheduled review date	June, 2027