

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 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

Ballarat North Primary School is situated in the northern part of Ballarat and has a fluctuating enrolment of around 390. 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 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 Reading Recovery, swimming, athletics, team sports, camps, CLUBS, excursions, multi-age TEAMS, Better Buddies, cultural performances, choir, a biennial school concert 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

AIMS

Ballarat North Primary School promotes high achievement and success for all by working with students to:

- Strive for personal excellence in all aspects of their education
- Develop independence, persistence, self-motivation and the ability to work cooperatively with others
- Become adaptable and creative thinkers who enjoy and are actively involved in their learning
- Build resilience and develop highly effective social skills
- Show care and respect for themselves, others and the environment
- Develop a sense of belonging and pride in their school and an awareness of their place within a global community

MISSION

To achieve our aims for students the school will:

- Provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment
- Offer an engaging and challenging curriculum that caters for the diverse needs of all learners
- Use a range of effective, evidence-based teaching approaches to maximise the learning growth of all students
- Adopt practices that enhance student wellbeing and promote positive relationships
- Establish cooperative learning partnerships with parents and the wider community
- Have high expectations of all students

VALUES

Our core values are: care, respect, excellence and community.

We demonstrate:

- Care by looking after ourselves, others and our environment
- Respect by using manners and being kind in words and actions
- Excellence by always giving our personal best
- Community by everyone working together

3. Engagement strategies

Ballarat North 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 whole of school and targeted/ individual strategies used by our school are included below:

Whole school strategies include:

- *ensuring practices reflect the school's values of care, respect, excellence and community*
- *high and consistent expectations of all staff, students and parents and carers*
- *promoting positive relationships between staff and students, recognising the fundamental role this plays in building and sustaining student wellbeing*
- *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*
- *using an instructional model to ensure an explicit, consistent model of instruction that is evidenced-based, incorporating high impact teaching strategies (HITS)*
- *providing a broad curriculum incorporating specialist programs and extra curricula opportunities*
- *promoting deep learning and opportunities for students to collaborate, create and connect through Integrated Curriculum units*
- *developing positive attitudes to learning and a growth mindset through implementation of the school's four Learning Behaviours*
- *utilising formative assessment including goal setting to promote student agency in their learning*
- *planning transition programs to support students moving into different stages of their schooling*
- *acknowledging positive behaviour and student achievement in classrooms, and formally in school assemblies, newsletters and communication to parents*
- *monitoring student attendance and implementing attendance improvement strategies at a whole-school and individual level*
- *creating opportunities for cross-age connections through 'Wonderful Wednesdays', TEAMs Buddy program and the Delta Dogs Canine program.*

Targeted/ Individual strategies include:

- *building constructive relationships with students at risk or students who are vulnerable due to complex individual circumstances*
- *meeting with a 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*
- *providing school based mentoring, Seasons For Growth and Life Skills programs*

- *ensuring IEPs and regular Student Support Group (SSG) meetings for PSD (Program for Students with Disabilities) students, Koorie students, students in Out of Home Care and students with complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.*
- *referring students to Student Support Services and/or appropriate external supports (ie allied health professionals, ChildFirst)*

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 Plan in collaboration with the student and their family*
- *running regular Student Support Group meetings for all students:*
 - *with PSD funding*
 - *in Out of Home Care*
 - *and 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*
- *engagement with families*

5. Student rights and responsibilities

Students have the right to:

- Work in a safe and secure environment, without intimidation, bullying or harassment
- Be able to learn and play without interruption or interference
- Be treated with care, respect and fairness and to be valued as an individual
- Have access to quality teaching and learning programs
- Participate fully in the school's educational program

Students have the responsibility to:

- Listen carefully
- Follow directions
- Work quietly – without disturbing others
- Respect others – be kind in words and actions

- Care for school and personal property
- Work and play safely
- Strive for excellence

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

PROCEDURES

At Ballarat North Primary School we have procedures to follow if students are displaying inappropriate behaviour.

IN THE CLASSROOM:

Procedures -

- **Name** on the board to act as a warning.
- **Cross** beside name - 15 minutes supervised 'time out' in student's own classroom. Work missed may be made up in student's own time.
- **Second cross** beside name. Student is withdrawn to another room for 30 minutes and isolated from other children. A note will be sent home to parents.
- **Third cross** beside name. Parents notified immediately by phone. Student not to return to the class. Parent/teacher interview to take place. If the parent is unable to collect their child or can't be contacted, the student remains supervised out of the classroom for the rest of the day. Parent/teacher interview to be held as soon as possible.

Students have their name removed from the board at 3.30 pm, so that a fresh start is begun each day.

Names are not removed from the board for improved behaviour.

IN THE YARD:

- Warning
- 'Time out' in yard with child directed to sit on a designated seat.
- Removed from playground and name placed in Behaviour Book with a note sent home to parents.

SEVERITY CLAUSE

In the event of severe misbehaviour, the student will be immediately removed from the classroom and /or playground. Consultation between the principal/assistant principal and the teacher will precede the child's re-entry into the classroom.

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.

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
- involving families with homework and other curriculum-related activities
- involving families in school decision making through School Council and feedback opportunities
- 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
- incident data
- school reports
- parent survey
- case management
- CASES21
- SOCS

REVIEW CYCLE

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