

STUDENT WELFARE

POLICY

Rationale:

- This school endeavours to promote a healthy, supportive and secure environment for all children and to raise awareness of what makes students resilient, to develop strategies to reduce vulnerabilities and increase coping skills.

Aims:

- The school is a positive environment in which all teachers assume responsibility for student welfare, endeavouring to provide successful experiences for all children, where children feel safe and secure in a supportive environment where a sense of belonging and wellbeing are strengthened.
- Children develop positive social behaviours and problem solving skills.
- Staff are confident, skilled and proactive in the management of student welfare issues.
- Communication processes and protocols are clear and well known to ensure the effectiveness of student welfare support.

Implementation:

- Student Welfare is a shared responsibility between school, home and the community.
- The school will appoint a staff member who will coordinate student welfare across the school.
- The school will adopt a proactive and strategic stance with issues of student welfare, rather than operating in a consistently reactive mode.
- The school will implement welfare support structures and programs which prioritise and address the identified needs of individual students or the school as a whole and that help implement the aims of the policy. Refer to: '*Framework for Student Support Services 1999*'.
- The school will endeavour to implement and maintain programs such as: -
 - Seasons Program
 - Pacific Room
 - Buddies
 - Student Awards
 - Drug Education
 - Programs across the school to develop resilience, social skills, conflict resolution and problem solving eg: - 'You Can Do It'.
 - Transition programs.
- The school will provide the following support structures: -
 - Monitoring of, and responding to, protracted student absences
 - Trauma Management plan
 - Protocol for Mandatory Reporting
 - Student Support Group's for children in need
 - Bullying Survey of students and school environment.

- The school will also access outside services to provide support for students and staff which include: -
 - Psychologist for psychological and academic assessment
 - Mentors – providing support for ‘at risk’ children
 - Department of Human Services case managers and support workers
 - Social Workers to provide services such as counselling, social skills and anger management programs.
 - Local parent support groups
 - Relevant DE&T support staff
 - C.A.S.A. [Centre Against Sexual Assault]
 - School Nurse
- The school will endeavour to cater for: -
 - Children identified with specific welfare issues by creating support groups, developing appropriate individual programs including goals, monitoring performance and behaviour, and providing ongoing support.
- Longitudinal data will be collected regarding frequency and types of welfare issues, so as to measure the success or otherwise of school-based strategies and approaches.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

June 2009