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