

Dorset Primary School No.5132

STUDENT WELLBEING AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline our commitment to engaging and supporting students, and the strategies we use to embed this commitment throughout our school. This policy also highlights the rights and responsibilities of students in supporting our commitment. All parents/carers are stakeholders in the success of our students and this policy outlines how our school engages with families to engage and support students.

POLICY

Dorset PS features a diverse population of students, including English as an Additional Language (EAL) and Indigenous students, as well as students with additional learning needs. Our school instils and nurtures the beliefs that every child can inspire others, achieve their goals and succeed in life-long learning.

Dorset PS promotes a whole-child approach to teaching, learning and wellbeing. We are committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment for all students, recognising that students reach their full potential when they are happy, healthy and safe. We understand that a positive school culture engages students and supports learning.

Engagement strategies

Dorset PS 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 engagement strategies

- A partnership with the Real Schools Restorative Practice program which underpins classroom and behaviour management practice across the school
- A culture of inclusion, engagement and support for all students and families
- A school-wide focus on building and sustaining positive relationships
- Promotion of the home-school partnership
- Analysis of data from student, parent and staff surveys
- Continuous professional learning for staff to support inclusive teaching
- Trauma-informed teaching practice
- Transition programs for students entering and exiting the school in Foundation and Year 6
- Use of a Junior School Council to engage student voice across the school community
- Lunchtime Games and Clubs to engage students in social activities

Targeted engagement strategies

- Level Leaders who support consistent practice of engagement strategies in each year level
- A Student Support Coordinator who supports teachers to monitor and implement Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) for Koorie, Out of Home Care (OOHC) and Additional Needs students
- Differentiated teaching programs to suit the needs of a range of students

Individual engagement strategies

- Support plans for at-risk students
- Individual Learning Plans
- Referring the student to school-based wellbeing supports, student support services or appropriate external supports, i.e. youth and family services, allied health professionals, headspace, child and adolescent mental health services or ChildFirst.

Where necessary the school will support the student's family to engage by:

- Being responsive and sensitive to changing personal circumstances and health/wellbeing
- Collaborating with any external allied health services that are supporting the student
- Monitoring individual student attendance
- Running regular Student Support Group meetings for specific students.

Identifying students in need of support

Dorset PS uses the following information and tools to identify students in need of additional support:

- Social and behavioural information gathered at 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
- Self-referrals or referrals from peers

Student rights and responsibilities

We expect that all students, staff, parents and carers treat each other with respect and dignity.

Students have the **right** to:

- Participate fully in their education
- Feel safe, secure and happy at school
- Learn in an environment free from harassment, violence, discrimination or intimidation
- Express their ideas, feelings and concerns.

Students have the **responsibility** to:

- Participate fully in their educational program
- Demonstrate respect for themselves and the people around them
- 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/carers and approach a trusted teacher or adult in the school.

Student behavioural expectations

Behavioural expectations of students, staff and families are embedded in our school's Statement of Values. Bullying behaviour will be addressed in accordance with our Bullying Prevention Policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Dorset PS will institute a staged response. Where appropriate, parents will be informed about the inappropriate behaviour and the disciplinary action taken by teachers and other school staff.

Disciplinary measures may be used as part of a staged response to inappropriate behaviour. They may be used in combination with other engagement/support strategies. Disciplinary measures at our school will be applied fairly and consistently. Students always have 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
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Referral to the Level Leader
- Detentions
- Suspension
- Expulsion

Suspension and expulsion are measures of last resort and may only be used in particular situations consistent with Department policy. **Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school and will not be used in any circumstance.**

Engaging with families

Dorset PS values the input of parents/carers and we aim to build strong partnerships with families. We engage with families by:

- Ensuring that all parents have access to our school policies and procedures on our 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
- Coordinating resources and services from the community for families
- Including families in Student Support Groups, and developing individual plans for students.

Evaluation

Dorset PS collects data each year to understand the frequency and types of wellbeing issues that are experienced by our students. By doing this, we can measure the effectiveness of school-based strategies and identify needs. Sources of data that will be assessed on an annual basis include:

- Student Attitudes to School and Parent Opinion Surveys
- Incident data
- School reports
- Case management
- CASES21
- SOCS

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in September 2020 and is scheduled for review in September 2021.