

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 well-being 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 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.
- The school will endeavour to implement and maintain programs such as:
 - Student of the Week Awards,
 - Aussie of the Month Awards,
 - Health Education via the Life Education Van,
 - You Can Do It & Bounce Back Programs to develop resilience, social skills, conflict resolution and problem solving.
 - Transition programs, and
 - Implementation of the Kids Matter Framework.
- The school will provide the following support structures:
 - Monitoring of, and responding to, protracted student absences,
 - Protocol for Mandatory Reporting, and
 - Student Support Service Officers.
- 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,
 - Social Workers to provide services such as counselling, social skills and anger management programs,
 - Relevant DET support staff,
 - C.A.S.A. [Centre Against Sexual Assault], and the

- 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.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

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

November 2013