



# Willaura Primary School **STUDENT WELLBEING AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students and members of our school community understand:

- our commitment to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for students
- expectations for positive student behaviour
- support available to students and families
- our school's policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour.

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. Willaura 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.

## **SCOPE**

This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions.

## **POLICY**

### **School profile**

Willaura Primary School is over 100 years old and is located in the town of Willaura, 35 kilometres south of Ararat. A small rural school with a small number of enrolments each year. Willaura Primary School's purpose is to provide personalised, high quality learning programs and opportunities to each student so that they can learn according to their individual needs, aspire to become lifelong learners and reach their full academic, social and emotional potential. We will provide a caring, nurturing and stimulating learning environment so that our students are fully prepared for the next stage of their education and can be active, successful members of their community. Willaura Primary School endeavours to promote their vision and values that at Willaura Primary School, we strive to create a learning environment that empowers our students to become active citizens who contribute positively to their community. We also promote our school values 'Stay Safe, Try Your Best, Act Responsibly and Respect Others' to ensure that our learning environment is safe and supportive, as complimented by our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Framework. Willaura Primary School is part of the Ararat & Pyrenees School Network, Central Highlands Area and the Ararat Rural Schools Cluster.

### **School values, philosophy and vision**

At Willaura Primary School, we have a culture of care and respect. We have a zero tolerance approach to bullying. Classroom teachers use a range of rewards and acknowledgements for good choices and exemplary behaviour using the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program for support. The Principal works with individual students and their families on individual behaviour plans if required. Willaura Primary School promotes a Growth Mindset culture for all of our students. Our students understand that they learn best by putting in effort and that it is OK to make mistakes. Our school has a positive, accepting culture where effort is valued, so ALL students know if they try their best

they are a success. Students know they are at school to learn and that learning is valued. Staff model effort, respect, professionalism and excellence.

### **Engagement strategies**

Willaura 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.

One of the significant benefits of a small school is the individual attention students receive. However when a student requires specialised support we access a variety of Department of Education and Early Childhood Development student services including speech pathology, counselling, family support, referral services and assessment of learning needs. We can access the services listed through the Department, however parents can also access professional services and advice from your family doctor, who may refer you to a paediatrician, occupational therapist, psychologist or physiotherapist for example.

Willaura Primary School implements a range of strategies that support and promote school wide engagement. These include:

- high and consistent expectation of all staff, students, parents and carers
- prioritise positive relationships between staff and students, recognising the fundamental role this plays in building and sustaining student wellbeing
- creating a culture that is inclusive, engaging and supportive
- 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 and school level assessment data
- teachers at Willaura Primary School use an instructional framework to ensure an explicit, common and shared model of instruction to ensure that evidenced-based, high yield teaching practices are incorporated into all lessons
- teachers at Willaura Primary School adopt a broad range of teaching and assessment approaches to effectively respond to the diverse learning styles, strengths and needs of our students and follow the standards set by the Victorian Institute of Teaching
- our school's Statement of Values are incorporated into our curriculum and promoted to students, staff and parents so that they are shared and celebrated as the foundation of our school community
- positive behaviour and student achievement is acknowledged in the classroom, and formally in school assemblies and communication to parents
- monitor student attendance and implement attendance improvement strategies at a whole-school, cohort and individual level
- students have the opportunity to contribute to and provide feedback on decisions about school operations through the Student Representative Council and other leadership roles. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, support staff and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students
- we engage in school wide positive behaviour support with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:
  - Respectful Relationships
  - Bully Stoppers
  - Bounce Back
- opportunities for student inclusion

Willaura Primary School implements a range of strategies that support and promote individual engagement. These can include:

- building constructive relationships with students at risk or students who are vulnerable due to complex individual circumstances
- meeting with students 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
- referring the student to:
  - Student Support Services
  - Appropriate external supports such as council based youth and family services, other allied health professionals, child and adolescent mental health services
- Program for Students with Disabilities

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 a disability
  - in Out of Home Care
  - with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.

### **Identifying students in need of support**

Willaura Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. Willaura 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

### **Student rights and responsibilities**

All members of our school community have a right to experience a safe and supportive school environment. We expect that all students, staff, parents and carers treat each other with respect and dignity. Our school's Statement of Values highlights the rights and responsibilities of members of our community.

Students have the right to:

- participate fully in their education
- feel safe, secure and happy at school
- learn in an environment free from bullying, harassment, violence, discrimination or intimidation
- express their ideas, feelings and concerns.

Students have the responsibility to:

- participate fully in their educational program
- display positive behaviours that demonstrate respect for themselves, their peers, their teachers and members of the school community
- 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 or carers and approach a trusted teacher or a member of the school leadership team.

### **Student behavioural expectations**

Behavioural expectations of students, staff and families are grounded in our school's Statement of Values. Student bullying behaviour will be responded to consistently with Willaura Primary School's Bullying Policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Willaura Primary School will institute a staged response, consistent with the Department's Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidelines. 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 in combination with other engagement and support strategies to ensure that factors that may have contributed to the student's behaviour are identified and addressed. Disciplinary measures at our school will be applied fairly and consistently. Students will always be provided with 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 or other reasonable and proportionate responses to misbehaviour
- withdrawal of privileges
- restorative practices

### **Engaging with families**

Willaura 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, supported by our Communicating with School Staff policy.
- 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
- coordinating resources and services from the community for families
- including families in Student Support Groups, and developing individual plans for students.

## Evaluation

Willaura 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
- incidents data
- school reports
- parent survey
- case management
- CASES21
- SOCS

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Willaura Primary School Statement of Values and Vision
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Child Safe Standards Policy
- Communication with Staff Policy
- School Wide Positive Behaviour

### Review Cycle

This policy is to be reviewed every 2 years by the Policy Committee in consultation with the School Council.

This Policy was last ratified by the Policy Committee

**06/08/2019**