## **BELL PARK NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL**



## STUDENT WELLBEING AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Anthea Lagadinos (Principal) ph: 5278 3548.

## **PURPOSE**

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

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

Bell Park North 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, where student participation is encouraged and valued, helps to engage students and support them in their learning. Our school acknowledges that student wellbeing and student learning outcomes are closely linked.

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.

## **SCOPE**

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

## **CONTENTS**

- 1. School profile
- 2. School values, philosophy and vision
- 3. Wellbeing and engagement strategies
- 4. Identifying students in need of support
- 5. Student rights and responsibilities
- 6. Student behavioural expectations and management
- 7. Engaging with families
- 8. Evaluation

## **POLICY**

## 1. School profile

Bell Park North is a well-established school servicing the Geelong suburb of Bell Park with year levels from Foundation through to Year 6. Our school achieves its success by ensuring best practice in teaching and learning to enable the ongoing development of all children in preparing them for their future and ensure the best possible learning outcomes are achieved. The teaching and learning philosophy of all staff is aligned to the individual needs of each student using multi-disciplinary approaches and preferred learning styles which reflect current educational and technological trends.

Our team of enthusiastic and dedicated teachers and support staff are committed to implementing a whole school developed and consistent instructional model which strongly emphasises high expectations and delivers all learning experiences at a high standard. Students are encouraged to be active participants in their learning by working with their teachers to set personal learning goals and strategies to achieve these. This helps students develop into self-disciplined, self-regulated, knowledgeable and independent learners.

A strong focus on further improving student outcomes in the areas of English and Mathematics has continued through the implementation of the Victorian Curriculum and non—negotiable daily explicit teaching time of these core areas. Our NAPLAN results proudly continue to show that the children make strong growth between Grades 3 and 5 in the areas of Reading, Writing and Numeracy where we have recently been above the state means.

Successful targeted Literacy and Numeracy intervention programs complement the classroom focus on students in need across all year levels and have also assisted in our achievements.

We have continuously stayed abreast of technological trends to maintain a whole school focus on integrating Digital Technologies across the whole school to support children's learning. This has included a Robotics program which has improved student ability to problem solve and take risks in all areas of their learning. Furthermore, we work in collaboration with our local police in developing our students as safe and responsible digital citizens. We have proudly become an eSmart accredited school with this work being led by our Digital Technologies and eSmart coordinators and the children and staff on the eSmart committee.

Our positive school-based programs and learning and leadership opportunities assist students in becoming resilient and effective team members who are able to integrate and deal with all situations.

We proudly support the learning environment within our school through the implementation of the Be You, Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships and Healthy Achievement Frameworks. Within these frameworks' programs such as Peer Support and Social Emotional Awareness Learning (SEAL) strongly support student's emotional health and well-being and resilience development.

At Bell Park North Primary School, we applaud the commitment of each and every member of our school community whose dedication, hard work and support make our school the successful learning environment it is today.

## 2. School values, philosophy and vision

Bell Park North Primary School's Statement of Values and School Philosophy is integral to the work that we do and is the foundation of our school community. Students, staff and members of our school community are encouraged to live and demonstrate our core values of respect, integrity and kindness at every opportunity.

Our school's vision is, "Together We Achieve" to support the social, emotional and academic learning of all students in our care.

Values which form the basis of our actions are:

Friendship
Respect
Integrity
Equality
Never Give Up
Do Your Best
Safety

Our Statement of Values is available online at: <a href="https://www.bpnps.vic.edu.au/index.php/vision-and-values/">https://www.bpnps.vic.edu.au/index.php/vision-and-values/</a>

## 3. Wellbeing and engagement strategies

Bell Park North Primary School has developed a range of strategies to promote engagement, an inclusive and safe environment, positive behaviour, and respectful relationships for all students in our school. We recognise the importance of student friendships and peer support in helping children and students feel safe and less isolated. 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.

The School works collaboratively with students and parents/carers to establish fair and respectful behaviour policies and practices, based on the school's values, expected social competencies and positive peer relationships. There are also intervention strategies in place to address inappropriate behaviours which can negatively impact on the learning environment of the self and others.

A summary of the universal (whole of school), targeted (year group specific) and individual engagement strategies used by our school is included below:

## Universal

- High and consistent expectations of all staff, students and 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 and that embraces and celebrates diversity and empowers all students to participate and feel valued
- 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, student management data, school level assessment data and Student at Risk tool
- Teachers at Bell Park North Primary School use a school wide 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 Bell Park North 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 and School Philosophy 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
- Carefully planned transition programs to support students moving into different stages of their schooling
- 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 wholeschool, 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 forums including year group meetings and Peer Support Groups. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Assistant Principal and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- Create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through school plays, athletics, music programs and peer support programs
- All students are welcome to self-refer to the Student Wellbeing Team, Team Leaders, Assistant
  Principal and Principal if they would like to discuss a particular issue or feel as though they
  may need support of any kind. We are proud to have an 'open door' policy where students
  and staff are partners in learning
- We engage in school wide positive behaviour support with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:
  - Respectful Relationships
  - Bully Stoppers
  - Safe Schools
  - Zones of Regulation
  - The Resilience Project
  - Police in Schools
  - o eSmart
- Programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific needs or behaviour (i.e. anger management programs)
- Opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, clubs, recess and lunchtime activities)
- Buddy programs, peers support programs
- Measures are in place to empower our school community to identify, report and address inappropriate and harmful behaviours such as racism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination or harassment.

## **Targeted**

- Each year group has an Area Leader, a senior teacher responsible for their year level, who
  monitor the health and wellbeing of students in their year, and act as a point of contact for
  students who may need additional support
- Koorie students are supported to engage fully in their education, in a positive learning environment that understands and appreciates the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture – refer to our Action Plan: Aboriginal Learning, Well-being and Safety for further information

- Our English as a second language students are supported through our EAL program, and all
  cultural and linguistically diverse students are supported to feel safe and included in our
  school including through Geelong English Language Centre (GELC), IEPs, Harmony Day
  Celebrations, Community Cultural Celebration Days and Community Hub
- We support learning and wellbeing outcomes of students from refugee background through IEPs, Well-being Programs, food programs, RESP program,
- We provide a positive and respectful learning environment for our students who identify as LGBTIQ+ and follow the Department's policy on LGBTIQ Student Support
- All students in Out of Home Care are supported in accordance with the Department's policy on <u>Supporting Students in Out-of-Home Care</u> including being appointed a Learning Mentor, having an Individual Education Plan and a Student Support Group (SSG) and being referred to Student Support Services for an Educational Needs Assessment
- Students with a disability are supported to be able to engage fully in their learning and school
  activities in accordance with the Department's policy on <u>Students with Disability</u>, such as
  through reasonable adjustments to support access to learning programs, consultation with
  families and where required, student support groups and individual education plans
- Wellbeing and health staff will undertake health promotion and social skills development in response to needs identified by student wellbeing data, classroom teachers or other school staff each year
- Staff will apply a trauma-informed approach to working with students who have experienced trauma
- Students enrolled under the Department's international student program are supported in accordance with our legal obligations and Department policy and guidelines at: <u>International</u> <u>Student Program</u>

## **Individual**

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

- Student Support Groups
- Individual Education Plans
- Behaviour Students
- Behaviour Support Plans
- Student Support Services
- Building constructive relationships with students at risk or students who are vulnerable due to complex individual circumstances
- Meeting with student 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
- Considering if any environmental changes need to be made, for example changing the classroom set up
- Referring the student to:
  - school-based wellbeing supports
  - Student Support Services (SSS)

 Appropriate external supports such as council based youth and family services, other allied health professionals, headspace, child and adolescent mental health services or ChildFirst

As well as to other Department programs and services such as:

- Program for Students with Disabilities
- Mental health toolkit
- headspace
- Navigator
- LOOKOUT

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 Plans in collaboration with the student and their family
- Engaging with our regional Koorie Education Support Officers
- Running regular Student Support Group meetings for all students:
  - With a disability
  - o In Out of Home Care
  - With other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.

## 4. Identifying students in need of support

Bell Park North Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. The Student Wellbeing team plays a significant role in developing and implementing strategies to help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Bell Park North 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
- Attendance, detention and suspension data
- Engagement with families
- Students At Risk tool
- Work Programs, adjustments, IEPs, ES Planning Documents,
- COMPASS
- Data Chats

• Parent/Teacher Conferences

## 5. 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, racism, 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. Further information about raising a complaint or concern is available in our Complaints Policy.

## 6. Student behavioural expectations and management

Behavioural expectations of students are grounded in our school's Statement of Values/Student code of conduct and set out in our Shared Behaviour Expectations (see Appendix 1).

Violence, bullying, and other offensive and harmful behaviours such as racism, harassment and discrimination will not be tolerated and will be managed in accordance with this policy. Bullying will be managed in accordance with our Bullying Prevention Policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Bell Park North Primary School will institute a staged response, consistent with the Department's policies on behaviour, discipline and student wellbeing and engagement (see Appendix 2). Where appropriate, parents will be informed about the inappropriate behaviour and the disciplinary action taken by teachers and other school staff. An ICT acceptable Use Agreement matrix has also been implemented according to department policies (see Appendix 3).

Our school considers, explores and implements positive and non-punitive interventions to support student behaviour before considering disciplinary measures such as detention, withdrawal of privileges or withdrawal from class.

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.

## **Restorative Practices**

Restorative Practices acknowledges that relationships are central to building the school community and builds systems that address the misbehaviour and harm in a way that strengthens relationships. It focuses on the harm done rather than only on rule-breaking. It gives voice to people who have been harmed and enhances student's responsibility. Restorative Practices is collaborative problem solving that empowers change and growth (Hansberry, B 2009: 14).

At Bell Park North Primary School we use the Restorative Practices framework for managing challenging behaviours, to build and restore positive relationships. When a teacher identifies the need for a restorative conversation, with the use of Bell Park North Primary School Incident Reflection sheet (see Appendix 4), PBIS World Website and Restorative Practice Continuum from David Vinegrad (see Appendix 5) and in consultation with school Leadership and Welfare Officer, the teacher identifies an appropriate time to go through the process with those involved.

Staff at Bell Park North Primary School use the 'What happens when my Behaviour Affects Others?' (see Appendix 6) 5 step plan to identify and resolve behavioural issues.

## **Process**

## **Behaviours in Tier 1**

When an incidents occurs:

- 1. A warning is given to the student.
- 2. Teacher may redirect a student to the appropriate behaviours and expectations be outlined and reminded.
- 3. If the behaviour reoccurs a teacher may relocate the student within the classroom.
- 4. If the situation continues then a students may be exited to a buddy classroom with work and an Incident Reflection Sheet
- 5. Upon return the student may be expected to make up time lost by following a yard duty teacher or spending some recess/lunch time inside or they might be expected to complete work and have a conversation with the teacher.
- 6. Teachers are permitted to keep a student inside ½ of recess [10mins] and ½ of lunchtime [20mins].
- 7. If a child refuses to move to another classroom for time out then the Red Card Removal will be implemented.

## **Behaviours in Tier 2**

After the child returns to the classroom, at the earliest convenient time

- 1. An agreement will be made by the student and the appropriate form sent home to parents. 2 copies to be made (one to go to Anthea and the other to classroom teacher). Data will be recorded in the school data base by the teacher writing the agreement. This agreement is valid for 3 weeks.
- 2. If the agreement is broken there will be a lunchtime detention.
- 3. If the agreement is broken again there will be an afternoon detention. Anthea or senior staff will contact the parents.
- 4. If the agreement is broken again there will be a Student Management meeting and all relevant parties will attend. (E.g. Classroom teacher, Principal, parents, Network staff, social worker). Consequences for repeated inappropriate behaviour will be discussed at this meeting.
- 5. An immediate detention will be issued for severe behaviour

- 6. Teachers are permitted to keep a student inside ½ of recess [10mins] and ½ of lunchtime [20mins]
- 7. If a child refuses to move to another classroom for time out then the Red Card Removal will be implemented.

## **Behaviours in Tier 3**

- 1. The formal process of Red Card Removal.
- 2. Parents notified and a student management meeting organised between all concerned parties.
- 3. Consequences for repeated inappropriate behaviour will be discussed at this meeting.

If a **Red Card Removal** is not possible, and the child is not disrupting the class or a danger to themselves or others they will be told it will be dealt with in the next break.

If the child needs to be removed urgently, the teachers in the area will help supervise students so the matter can be dealt with by the person in charge. Teachers to check timetable to determine the available staff.

If parents do not attend an organised meeting, a letter will be sent requesting another one and, in the mean-time consequences for future bad behaviour will be discussed with the child.

## Warnings

These will accumulate during the day and usually start afresh the next day.

## **Lunch-time Detention**

1:30–1:50 Students are supervised by a teacher and expected to write an apology or School Rules.

## **After School Detention**

Principal or Assistant Principal will supervise the after-school detention. If they are not available the next teacher in charge for the day will supervise this.

\*If agreement forms for detention do not get returned with parent's signature then the teacher in charge is to phone parents to get verbal permission for the detention to go ahead. A written record of the date, time and person spoken to needs to be kept.

## **Repeated Behaviours**

A behaviour monitoring plan will be adopted for repeated inappropriate behaviours. This will be discussed with the leadership team first and then the parents and if it is not returned regularly it will be followed up by the leadership team.

If children are receiving more than 3 agreements in a term for different incidents then a lunchtime detention will be given followed by an after-school detention if poor behaviour continues.

Children who continuously misbehave and are considered a risk to participate in activities, excursions or camps at any particular time may be withdrawn from that event after warnings and discussions with the leadership team and the parent. The parents need to be made aware ahead of time that is being considered for their child not to participate in an activity or attend an excursion or camp. The final decision will be made by the Principal, Leading Teacher or teacher in charge when the leadership team is absent.

## Parent Support

If parents do not attend an organized meeting, a letter will be sent requesting another meeting and in the meantime consequences for repeated behaviour will be discussed with the child.

## **Teacher Support**

Teachers who have to attend student management meetings and who have workload issues due to follow up procedures will be supported by extra time release <u>if necessary</u> and when it becomes available.

## **Reward Systems**

There will be a reward for all students who have not received an agreement or only 1 for the term. E.g.: Jumping Castle. There will be a chance to earn back a reward day by completing an activity from the 'Positive Change' menu. Each grade to implement a reward system for classroom behaviour and reward cards will be placed in Yard Duty bags to be given to students demonstrating excellent values in the yard. These will be exchanged back in the classroom for classroom rewards.

## **4 STEPS BEHAVIOUR PLAN**

(For behaviour that affects the safety and learning of other children)

**STEP 1:** Teacher looks and quietly speaks to student. An exit warning is issued along with an explanation for the warning.

**STEP 2:** Teacher speaks to the student for the second time. A second exit warning is issued along with an explanation for the warning.

**STEP 3:** Student receives a third exit warning and is moved to another classroom for a specified amount of time.

**STEP 4:** At the end of the specified time the student is sent back to class. At the earliest appropriate time the teacher and student meet.

## \*Children who refuse to make an agreement will be given a lunchtime detention and parents notified of their refusal.

Suspension, expulsion and restrictive interventions are measures of last resort and may only be used in situations consistent with Department policy, available at:

- https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/suspensions/policy
- https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/expulsions/policy
- https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/restraint-seclusion/policy

In line with Ministerial Order 1125, no student aged 8 or younger will be expelled without the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Education and Training.

The Principal of Bell Park North Primary School is responsible for ensuring all suspensions and expulsions are recorded on CASES21.

Corporal punishment is prohibited by law and will not be used in any circumstance at our school.

## 7. Engaging with families

Bell Park North 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.

## 8. Evaluation

Bell Park North 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, including attendance and absence data
- SOCS
- COMPASS
- Student At Risk Tool

Bell Park North Primary School will also regularly monitor available data dashboards to ensure any wellbeing or engagement issues are acted upon in a timely manner and any intervention occurs as soon as possible.

## **COMMUNICATION**

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website: <a href="https://www.bpnps.vic.edu.au/">https://www.bpnps.vic.edu.au/</a>
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

Our school will also ensure it follows the mandatory parent/carer notification requirements with respect to suspensions and expulsions outlined in the Department's policies at:

- Suspension process
- Expulsions Decision

## **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

The following Department of Education and Training policies are relevant to this Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy:

• <u>Attendance</u>

- <u>Student Engagement</u>
- Child Safe Standards
- Supporting Students in Out-of-Home Care
- Students with Disability
- LGBTIQ Student Support
- Behaviour Students
- <u>Suspensions</u>
- Expulsions
- Restraint and Seclusion

The following school policies are also relevant to this Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy:

- Child Safety Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Statement of Values and School Philosophy

## **POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Policy last reviewed	20/10/2023
Consultation	School Council and Staff
Approved by	Principal and School Council
Next scheduled review date	2025

# Appendix 1

# **Bell Park North Primary School Shared Behaviour Expectations**

	Students	Staff	Parents/Carers
Engagement	<ul> <li>bemonstrate:</li> <li>the school values (Friendship, Respect, Integrity, Equality, Never Give Up, Do Your Best and Safety)</li> <li>high expectations that they can learn and take risks with their learning</li> <li>acceptance and encouragement of difference and cultural diversity</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Ensure the school complies with its duty of care obligations</li> <li>Provide an educational environment that effectively engages all students</li> <li>Adhere to DET regulations as directed</li> <li>Plan and deliver curriculum and assessment that engages and challenges students</li> <li>Create an atmosphere of collaboration and trust that promotes risk taking</li> <li>Encourage positive parent partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>encourage their child to demonstrate school values and actively participate in all learning opportunities</li> <li>support the school in its efforts to provide a safe, positive and caring learning environment</li> <li>provide the school with updated, relevant information regarding their child</li> <li>accept differences and the cultural diversity of the school community</li> <li>support school activities and events, including homework</li> </ul>
Behaviour	Students are expected to:  model the schools core values of diversity, achievement, responsibility and endeavour always treat each other with respect show ownership of their behaviour listen to instruction ensure the safety of themselves and others (physically and socially)	<ul> <li>Implement school supported programming to cater for all learning needs (i.e. BPNPS Starting Right Program, Bounce back, etc.)</li> <li>build a collegiate atmosphere with other school staff to promote a positive, caring and supportive learning environment</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>understand the school's behaviour expectations and work with it to promote a consistent approach that supports their child's learning, engagement and endeavour in and out of school</li> <li>demonstrate respect for all staff, students and community members</li> </ul>
Attendance	<ul> <li>All students are expected to:</li> <li>attend and be punctual for all timetabled classes every day that the school is open to students</li> <li>manage their time effectively at school to maximise learning</li> <li>bring a note from their parents/carers</li> </ul>	In compliance with DET all staff will:  • promote regular attendance with all members of the school community • monitor and follow up on absences • mark rolls accurately each lesson • follow up on unexplained absences promptly and consistently • identify trends via data analysis	<ul> <li>Parents will:</li> <li>provide a written explanation for all absences</li> <li>have their child at school on time for all sessions</li> <li>sign the appropriate book in the office if their child leaves early or arrives late</li> <li>attend specific meetings (e.g. Parent/teacher conferences)</li> </ul>