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STUDENT WELLBEING AND ENGAGEMENT

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Anglesea Primary School. Ph: 5263 1231. Email: anglesea.ps@education.vic.gov.au

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.

Anglesea 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.

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POLICY

School profile

Anglesea Primary School was established in 1927 and is located approximately 36 kilometres south-west of Geelong, located within the Surfcoast Shire local government area. We have approximately 160 students enrolled from Foundation to Year 6 and 17 school staff members including the Principal and a Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader.

Our 'small school' allows for a personalised and individualised approach to everything we do. We pride ourselves on consistently implementing evidence-based teaching and learning practices to achieve the best possible learning outcomes for each and every student. Our teaching and learning program is implemented by our highly professional teachers and support staff who work together to provide a stimulating and challenging environment for the children. Wellbeing is also a priority in the school to ensure we support the children's social and emotional needs. As a community school we want our students to know we care and that their needs are being met.

Our grounds provide ample opportunities for Outdoor Learning, enhanced by our Grade 3-6 Outdoor Education program.

Our rich educational program provides a wide range of opportunities and experiences and is complemented by our iPad program and specialist programs in Science, L.O.T.E (Auslan), Performing Arts/Music, Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden, Art and Physical Education. Our whole-school camping program and two-week Beach Awareness and Safety program at Pt Roadknight encourages strong participation and connectedness to our school. Our well-resourced facilities and attractive play spaces stimulate curiosity, ingenuity and inquiry in order to foster a spirit of discovery and enjoyment of learning.

Our School Values have a high profile in the school being Respect, Responsibility, Kindness and Collaboration. We are proud of our strong family partnerships and encourage involvement from parents and community members in our programs. The school's Parents Club enthusiastically holds fundraisers that bring the school community together.

The school is organised into collaborative learning communities:

- Grade Prep, One and Two learning community consisting of three home groups in the main building.
- Grade Three and Four, learning community consisting of two home groups in the main building.
- Grade Five and Six learning community consisting of two home groups in a separate relocatable classroom.

1. School values, philosophy and vision

Vision

Anglesea Primary School is a creative and fun learning environment that is accepting of all and promotes the following values: Respect, Responsibility, Kindness and Collaboration. Students will strive for personal best, becoming independent and resilient learners who make a positive contribution to the community and environment.

Our values are displayed in a central place of our school and they live through our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) program, and in everything that we do, to further embed these values. School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) is a whole-school framework that promotes positive behaviour, wellbeing and respectful relationships through clear expectations and consistent practices across the school. At Anglesea Primary School, SWPBS supports students to develop positive behaviours by explicitly teaching school values, recognising positive choices and creating a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment.

We aim to provide a supportive, caring and sustainable learning environment for powerful learning that is individualised and personalised whilst taking into account the emotional and social wellbeing of all students, staff, families and community.

Our school has an open-door culture that encourages parents and community involvement and allows our students to participate in a wide range of programs and special events within our community. Parents and members of the wider community play an important role in the school and their participation is actively encouraged. A strong focus on wellbeing is firmly established with opportunities for all to achieve success in learning.

The focus of our teaching and learning is on personalised learning where students understand themselves as learners whilst seeking to attain skills in all areas of the Victorian Curriculum. Learning opportunities are provided and supported through inquiry based learning, digital learning tools, experiences that cater for a variety of learning styles and abilities, attention to the individual needs of all students and the provision of a collaborative and cooperative learning environment with links to our local community. To support curriculum, a wide range of enrichment programs are provided.

2. Wellbeing and engagement strategies

Anglesea 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.

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
- 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 and school level assessment data
- teachers at Anglesea Primary School use an instructional model 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 Anglesea 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
- carefully planned transition programs to support students moving into different stages of their schooling
- school wide 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 Voice Committee and other forums including year group meetings and Peer Support Groups. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers and the Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- we engage in school wide positive behaviour support with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:
    - Respectful Relationships
    - eSmart
- programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific behaviour (i.e. anger management programs)
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, clubs, recess and lunchtime activities)
- buddy programs and peers support programs with the local kindergarten.
- 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 area (Junior and Senior) has a Leading Teacher responsible for the cohort, 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
- connect all Koorie students with a Koorie Engagement Support Officer
- all students in Out of Home Care will be appointed a Learning Mentor, have an Individual Learning Plan and a Student Support Group (SSG) and will be referred to Student Support Services for an Educational Needs Assessment
- staff will apply a trauma-informed approach to working with students who have experienced trauma
- 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 [insert any specific measures at your school to support LGBTIQ+ students]
- 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 Students with Disability, such as through reasonable adjustments to support access to learning programs, consultation with families and where required, student support groups and individual education plans

Individual

- Student Support Groups
- Individual Learning Plan and Behaviour Support Plan
- Program for Students with Disabilities
- referral to Student Welfare Coordinator and Student Support Services
- referral to Child FIRST, Headspace and Orange Door

Anglesea 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 student and their parent/carer to talk about how best to help the student engage with school
- developing an Individual Education 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
    - Appropriate external supports such as council based youth and family services, other allied health professionals, headspace, child and adolescent mental health services, Child FIRST and Orange Door
    - Re-engagement programs such as Navigator

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
- running regular Student Support Group meetings for all students:
    - with a disability
    - in Out of Home Care
    - and with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.

3. Identifying students in need of support

Anglesea 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. Anglesea 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
- self-referrals or referrals from peers

4. 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. Further information about raising a complaint or concern is available in our Complaints Policy.

5. Student behavioural expectations and management

Behavioural expectations of students are grounded in our school's Statement of Values/Student code of conduct.

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, Anglesea Primary School will institute a staged response, consistent with the Department's policies on behaviour, discipline and student wellbeing and engagement. Where appropriate, parents will be informed about the inappropriate behaviour and the disciplinary action taken by teachers and other school staff.

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.

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
- behaviour support and intervention programs
- suspensions
- expulsion

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 Anglesea 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.

6. Engaging with families

Anglesea 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.

7. Evaluation

Anglesea 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 (student online cases system)

Anglesea 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
- Included in staff induction processes
- 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:

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

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

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2026
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2028