



Quarry Hill Primary School

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Student Engagement and Wellbeing policy

This policy reflects the DET *Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidance* and was produced in consultation with the school community

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.

Quarry Hill 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.

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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2. School values, philosophy and vision
3. Engagement strategies
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POLICY

1. School profile

Quarry Hill Primary School is located close to the Bendigo CBD and serves a well-established residential area. The school's historic red brick building features a unique quadrangle design that provides easy access and fosters high level whole-school and between-classroom interaction. At the back of the school we have native bushland and an Eco Shed providing an environmental learning space used for a variety of purposes including science, environmental investigations, developmental play and art sessions.

We have 371 students enrolled from Prep to Year 6 and 25.04 equivalent full time staff members: The school engages in four specialist subjects: Chinese, Physical Education, Visual Arts, and Music and we have a wellbeing worker three days a fortnight.

The teachers at this school will work collectively to ensure that students feel valued and cared for, have meaningful opportunities to contribute to the school, have their voice heard and can effectively engage with their learning. This school recognises the need to be inclusive, recognising and responding to the diverse needs of our students, accommodating different learning profiles and rates of learning and intervening early to identify and respond to individual student needs.

We strive to provide a nurturing and challenging environment that empowers students to reach their personal best, both academically and socially.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

Quarry Hill 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 Kind, Curious and Brave at every opportunity.

Our school's **vision**: students are empowered to be engaged learners. Our community fosters a culture of respect and belonging.

Our Statement of Values is available online on our website. [\(here\)](#)

3. Engagement strategies

Quarry Hill 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, 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 Quarry Hill Primary School use a Literacy Instructional Model and a Numeracy Instructional Model to ensure an explicit, common and shared model of instruction which incorporates evidenced-based, high yield teaching practices into all lessons
- teachers at Quarry Hill 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
- 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 Junior School Council and other forums including KidsMatter Action Group. 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 a bi-annual school production, athletics, special multi-age days and peer support programs
- All students are welcome to self-refer to the School Chaplain, 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 positive behaviour supports across the school with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:
 - Respectful Relationships
 - Bully Stoppers
 - Safe Schools
 - Berry St
- programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific behaviour (i.e. resilience)
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, leadership roles and lunchtime activities)
- buddy programs, peer support programs

Targeted

This section includes more specific strategies, designed to address particular concerns in certain age groups or friendship circles.

- 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 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
- art and music focus groups

Individual

This section includes student specific strategies that may be considered and applied on a case by case basis.

- Program for Students with Disabilities
- referral to Student Welfare Coordinator and Student Support Services

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

4. Identifying students in need of support

Quarry Hill 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. Quarry Hill 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, time-in and suspension data
- engagement with families

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, 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.

6. Student behavioural expectations

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

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Quarry Hill 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.

We know a staged response to behaviour provides a continuum of support for student wellbeing.

Stage 1 Prevention: A whole school approach to the promotion of positive behaviours. Our school wide expectations are defined and taught to all students. We have established whole school engagement programs and processes to support students at risk of disengaging from learning.

Stage 2 Early Intervention: Targeted and focussed on problem behaviour in order to reduce it.

Stage 3 Responding to individual student's exhibiting challenging behaviour:

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
- time in
- behaviour management plans
- yard plans
- behaviour reviews
- suspension

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

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/engagement.aspx>

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

7. Engaging with families

Quarry Hill 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

Quarry Hill 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

Student support groups

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/supportgroups.aspx>

ChildFirst

<https://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/making-referral-child-first>

Headspace

<https://headspace.org.au/>

Navigator

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/navigator.aspx>

The following policies are available on our school website: <https://www.quarryhillps.vic.edu.au/>

- Attendance Policy
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy
- School Statement of Values and Philosophy

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated December 2019 and is scheduled for review in December 2021