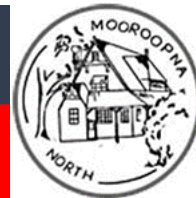


Mooroopna North Primary School

Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Mooroopna North Primary School on 03 5829 0141

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.

Mooroopna 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

Mooroopna North Primary School is situated 10km from Mooroopna on Ardmona Road. Mooroopna is located approximately 4 kilometres from the regional city of Shepparton, on the west side of the Goulburn River. Students attend the school from both the Mooroopna, Shepparton, Coomboona, and Undera townships and from farms located around the school. Our 21st century learning facility was the first to be completed under the State Government's "Rural Schools Replacement Program". Mooroopna North Primary

School values and prides itself on creating and maintaining strong home school partnerships. We provide our students with a safe, caring and stimulating educational setting. At Mooroopna North Primary School, we strive to create an environment which nurtures all individuals' emotional, social, physical and academic potential. Our community approach to school wide positive behaviour is based on the values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

We deliver two hours of literacy and one hour of Numeracy instruction daily. During Literacy and Numeracy times we have a teacher to student ratio of 1 teacher to 15 students to ensure each child's individual learning needs are being met. Staffing currently consists of one Principal, 2.5 Full Time Teachers. We also employ one 2.0 Education Support Personnel and a Speech Therapist and Business Manager 0.2 (one day per week). Specialist programs include Auslan, Library and Art. We support Allied Health (Social Work, Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy) Students through the provision of placement opportunities onsite. Our current enrolment is 30. TheirCare operates outside school hours care five days a week and offers a school holiday program.

Technology is used to assist in all curriculum areas, with a focus on literacy and numeracy. Wireless networked Chromebooks, iPads, Cisco and 3 Interactive TV's support the delivery of all facets of the curriculum. The school provides Community Engagement and School Pride programs, Sporting Schools, as well as animals for the students to care for which consist of a guinea pig, fish, cockatiel, and a blue tongue lizard.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

Mooroopna North Primary School's vision is to create an environment which nurtures all individual's emotional, social and academic potential so that they will contribute in a positive manner to an ever-changing world.

Mooroopna North Primary School's mission is to provide a dynamic learning environment that engages students and community to achieve their full potential through critical thinking, communication, citizenship, collaboration, creativity, and character to become future, courageous leaders of a sustainable and global society.

Mooroopna North Primary School is a community where individuals are encouraged to live, learn and flourish in a learning environment where the dignity, respect, resilience and responsibility of each person is valued, and personal excellence is celebrated. Mooroopna North Primary School endeavours to educate students to:

- Be self-directed responsible life-long learners who have the confidence to take their own path and reach their full potential.
- Be resilient and confident whilst maintaining a positive attitude to others.
- Be responsible for their own actions.
- Be empowered with the knowledge and skills to enact their right to feel safe and be safe.
- Develop their knowledge and skills to live as an effective and contributing citizen.
- Have a genuine care and respect for the environment.
- Have respect for themselves, others and the community.

OUR VALUES

The core values of the school are RRR

Respect – we respect ourselves, our school and each other, and understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people around us.

Resilience – we will approach learning challenges with insight and enthusiasm and monitor our emotions with a positive mindset.

Responsibility- we will take responsibility for our actions and do what is right, to be kind, and to be courageous.

3. Wellbeing and engagement strategies

Mooroopna 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.

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 and school level assessment data
- deliver a broad curriculum including VET programs, VCE and VCAL to ensure that students are able to choose subjects and programs that are tailored to their interests, strengths and aspirations
- teachers at Mooroopna North 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 Mooroopna 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 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. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, the school chaplain and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- create and encourage opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students.
- all students are welcome to self-refer to the School Chaplain, or 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
 - The Resilience Project
 - Berry Street Education Model
 - Smiling Minds
- programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific needs or behaviour

- opportunities for student inclusion
- 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

- all staff will monitor the health and wellbeing of students and act as a point of contact for students who may need additional support
- weekly whole staff wellbeing meetings will identify students requiring support each week and put forward strategies for support and intervention
- staff will compile student profiles of all students to ensure all staff including CRT's understand individual students' strength, triggers and strategies
- 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, including the incorporation of Yorta Yorta language in morning circle
- 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 [Supporting Students in Out-of-Home Care](#) including being appointed a Learning Mentor, having an Individual Learning 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 [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
- all 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

Individual

- [Student Support Groups](#)
- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-support-groups/policy>
- [Individual Education Plans for all students](#)
- [Behaviour Support Plans](#)
- [Student Support Services](#)
- [Program for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Mental health toolkit](#)
- [referral to Child First, Orange Door, Headspace](#)
- [Navigator](#)
- [LOOKOUT](#)

Mooroopna North 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 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
- engaging with our regional Koorie Engagement Support Officers
- running regular Student Support Group meetings for all students:
 - with a disability
 - in Out of Home Care
 - ATSI
 - with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.

4. Identifying students in need of support

Mooroopna 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 help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Mooroopna 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
- self-referrals or referrals from peers

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 and Student Child Safety 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, Mooroopna North 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 implement 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
- detentions
- behaviour support and intervention meetings
- suspension
- 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 Mooroopna 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

Mooroopna 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 aim 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

Mooroopna 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
- uEducateUs incidents data
- school reports
- parent survey
- case management
- CASES21, including attendance and absence data
- SOCS

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/carers 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

REVIEW CYCLE

Policy last reviewed: November 2022
Det Policy: School council consultation **required**
School Council consultation date: December 2022
Approved by: Principal
Next scheduled review date: November 2024