

Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

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.

Rockbank 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.

Contents

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

Policy

1. School profile

Rockbank Primary School has a current enrolment of over 260 students and is located in a rapidly growing suburb on the Western outskirts of Melbourne between Caroline Springs and Melton. Several new developments are within our Designated Neighbourhood Area, which will ensure that our population will increase significantly over the coming years. Our school vision, "Nurture. Believe. Achieve," guides our strong academic focus and enables us to teach all of our students to enact our school values of respect, togetherness, learning and safety.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

At Rockbank Primary School we aim to provide a learning environment that supports the educational, social and emotional development of every child across all aspects of their primary school lives and beyond, so that they are better equipped to:

- make informed responsible choices throughout their lives
- make valuable and positive contributions to their community, and
- achieve their very best

Rockbank Primary School takes a whole-school approach to creating a positive, safe and supportive school climate in which all students, including students with additional needs, can learn and develop. We follow a School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) model. One of the essential features of this model is to clarify expected behaviours. We proactively teach these behaviours and most importantly, they show students how they can be successful. Students, staff and members of our school community are encouraged to live and demonstrate our core values of We are Respectful, We are Learners, We Value Togetherness and We are Safe.

3. Engagement strategies

Rockbank 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 Rockbank Primary School use a school designed, research based model to ensure an explicit, common and shared mode of instruction to ensure that evidenced-based, high yield teaching practices are incorporated into all lessons
- teachers at Rockbank 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
- positive behaviour is acknowledged through a school-wide reward & recognition program that includes tangible reinforcements like certificates and house points.

- 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 Forum. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Student Support, Wellbeing and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through school plays, athletics and social skills programs
- All students have access to the Student Wellbeing Coordinator 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:
 - Explicit Values Lessons
 - Respectful Relationships
- Social Skills programs developed to address issue specific behaviour (i.e. self-regulation programs)
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams and lunchtime activities)
- peer mediation program

Targeted

- connect all Koorie students with a Koorie Engagement Support Officer
- all students in Out of Home Care will have an Individual Learning Plan and will be referred to Student Support Services for an Educational Needs Assessment
- Any student funded under the Program for Students with Disabilities will be supported by Education Support staff, will have an Individual Learning Plan and will have a Student Support Group meeting each term.
- wellbeing staff will undertake 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

Rockbank 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, Safety 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 Child First

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

Rockbank 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. Rockbank 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
- academic performance
- observations by school staff such as changes in engagement, behaviour, self-care, social connectedness and motivation
- attendance 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:

- Learn in a safe and secure environment where they can fully develop their knowledge and skills without intimidation, harassment, discrimination or bullying.
- Participate fully in their education
- Express their ideas, feelings and concerns
- Receive reasonable assistance to resolve school-related problems
- Receive ongoing communication and feedback about their progress

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
- care for the school environment
- attend school regularly and participate fully in learning programs
- 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 staff.

6. Student behavioural expectations

Behavioural expectations of students, staff and families are grounded in our school's matrix; our School Wide Expectations. Student bullying behaviour will be responded to consistently with Rockbank Primary School's Bullying Prevention policy.

When a student does not follow our expected behaviours, Rockbank 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
- referral to the Wellbeing Coordinator or Principal
- restorative practices
- detentions
- behaviour reviews
- suspension
- expulsion

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

Rockbank 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
- providing parent volunteer opportunities so that families can contribute to school activities
- involving families with 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

Rockbank 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:

- Attitudes to School survey data
- incidents data on XUNO
- school reports
- parent survey data

Further Information and Resources

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Bullying Prevention policy.
- Complaints Policy
- Duty Of Care policy

The following websites and links may also provide useful information:

- [Student Support Groups](#)
- [Program for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Individual Education Plans for students in Out of Home Care](#)
- [Student Wellbeing Hub](#)
- [Office of the eSafety Commissioner](#)
- [Australian Student Wellbeing Framework](#)
- [Child First and family services](#)