

# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND WELLBEING

## 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.

Albion 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 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

### 1. School profile

Albion North Primary School is located in a residential area in Sunshine North, approximately 10 kilometres west of Melbourne. The school was established in 1962. The school's current enrolment is approximately 240 students (2019) and this enrolment is expected to be maintained in the projections for 2020 to 2024. We have a highly diverse population with families from many cultural backgrounds the highest percentage of CALD families from a Vietnamese background.

Albion North Primary School also has a small representation from the Koorie community and acknowledges the Wurundjeri people at the traditional custodians of the land that we now occupy.

The school has a pleasant appearance with spacious playing areas which include grassed playing fields, games courts, a covered outdoor play area, adventure playgrounds, jumping pits, shady garden areas, a vegetable garden, orchard and an enclosed courtyard.

We currently operate 11 classes from Prep to Year 6 with specialist programs in Visual Arts, Physical Education, STEM and Performing Arts. Class teachers run the LOTE program using online support from DET. Our teaching and learning programs are also supported by intervention, 1:1 laptops/iPads and the school library.

We are proud of our diversity and inclusive school community and 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**

Albion 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 at every opportunity.

Albion North Primary School's vision is to inspire, motivate and provide students with meaningful learning experiences in a positive and safe learning environment so that they can develop active skills to succeed in society.

Albion North Primary School's mission is to provide students with the best possible foundation in life through a comprehensive education so that they can develop active skills to succeed in society.

Albion North Primary School's values are caring, fairness, inclusion, integrity, respect and teamwork. At Albion North Primary School, we regard all members of our community in a considerate, fair and courteous manner. We act honestly and openly and treat others as we expect to be treated ourselves. We strive for excellence, which means trying our hardest and doing our best.

## **3. Engagement strategies**

Albion North 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 and school level assessment data;
- deliver a broad curriculum to ensure that students have access to subjects and programs that are tailored to their interests, strengths and aspirations;
- teachers at Albion North Primary School use the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model and the Workshop Model as the 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 Albion 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 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 year group meetings. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, the Assistant Principal and the Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns;
- create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through special activity days, athletics, music programs, gardening and other activities;
- all students are welcome to self-refer to the 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
  - eSmart (Alannah and Madeline Foundation)
- programs, in school visits and performances and excursions developed to address issue specific behaviour on a needs basis (i.e. anger management programs, cyberbullying);
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, recess and lunchtime activities);
- buddy programs between Prep and Year Six students and at other year levels when necessary

#### Targeted

- each teaching team has a Team Leader who is responsible for the oversight of the wellbeing of that cohort. All teachers monitor the health and wellbeing of students in their class, and act as a point of contact for students who may need additional support;
- connect all Koorie students with a Koorie Engagement Support Officer and an Individual Learning Plan;
- 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;
- 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. SSS and other professionals will be engaged when required;
- teaching teams will use the Department of Education and Training's (DET) Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships as the basis for the health and wellbeing program that they develop for students. Other resources such as Life Education, Bully Stoppers, eSmart will be used as appropriate

## Individual

May include:

- Student Support Groups, see:  
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/supportgroup.s.aspx>
- Individual Learning Plan and Behaviour Support Plan
- Program for Students with Disabilities
- referral to Student Support Services
- referral to ChildFirst, Headspace, CAMHS (child and adolescent mental health services)
- Lookout

Albion 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 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
  - Accessing support from professionals who work with a specific group of students eg. KESO

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**

Albion North Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially.

Albion 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 parents/carers or 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, 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. Student bullying behaviour will be responded to consistently with Albion North Primary School's Bullying policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Albion North Primary School will institute a staged response, consistent with the Department's Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidelines. This response will be consistent and fair for all students and will consider any cultural needs of the child. Parents/carers will be informed about the inappropriate behaviour and about 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;
- restorative practices;

- detentions in the form of removal from the playground for recess and/or lunchtimes;
- behaviour reviews;
- suspension;
- expulsion.

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

Suspension: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/suspensions/policy>

Expulsion: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/expulsions/policy>

Communication with parents at all stages of behaviour management is essential but particularly in the cases of suspension or expulsion,

Corporal punishment is prohibited in all Victorian schools and will not be used at Albion North Primary School under any circumstance.

### **7. Engaging with families**

Albion 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 to create successful partnerships with parents and carers by:

- ensuring that all parents have access to our school policies and procedures, available at our school office and on our school website;
- maintaining an open, respectful line of communication between parents and staff, supported by our Communicating with School Staff policy;
- providing 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**

Albion 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 (including PIVOT surveys)
- incidents data
- school reports
- parent survey
- case management
- CASES21
- SOCS

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

Related school policies include

- *Statement of Values and School Philosophy*
- *Bullying Prevention*

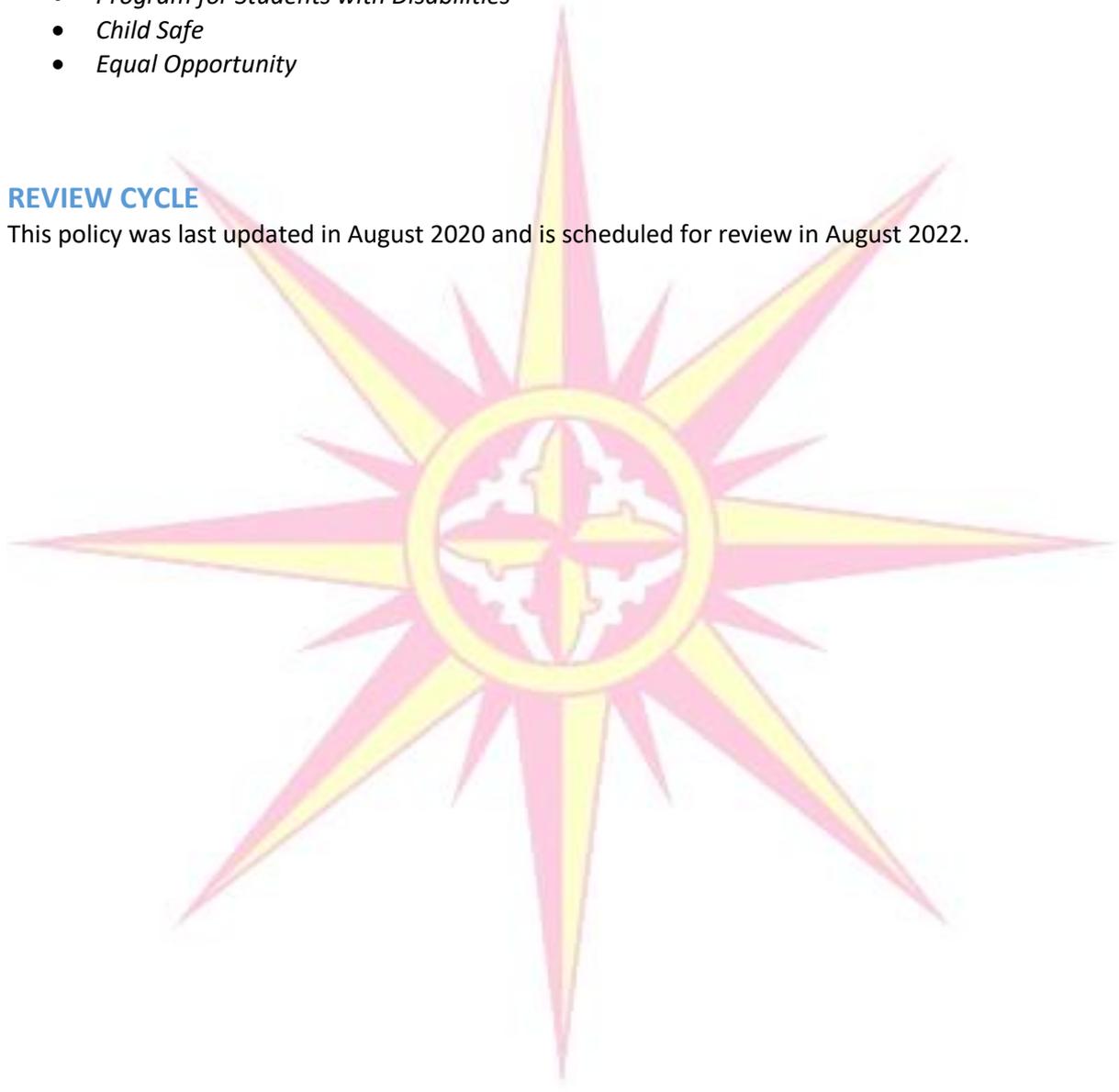
- *Child Safe Standards*
- *Inclusion and Diversity*

Related DET policies include

- *Suspension and Expulsion*
- *Program for Students with Disabilities*
- *Child Safe*
- *Equal Opportunity*

#### **REVIEW CYCLE**

This policy was last updated in August 2020 and is scheduled for review in August 2022.



# Learn by doing