Belvedere Park Primary School
Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy

Help for non-English speakers
If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school on 0397863205 or email belvedere.park.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.

Belvedere Park 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

1. School profile

The school community at Belvedere Park Primary School is committed to ensuring that the school provides a safe, secure and stimulating environment that meets the needs of our students. Our policy is based on the rights of the students to:

- Feel and be safe
- Learn and succeed
- Be treated with respect and kindness
- Play without interference
- Be heard and valued

Belvedere Park Primary School is a learning community committed to building relationships and fostering openminded and passionate lifelong learners.

At Belvedere Park Primary School, we have a high level of commitment to purposeful teaching and learning and a determination to provide a range of programs and resources responsive to our student needs.

Belvedere Park Primary School is a dynamic learning community located in Seaford, a bayside suburb of Melbourne. A strong focus on positive, respectful and supportive relationships between all members of our school community is a high priority. At the centre of our work is the aspiration to achieve high-quality outcomes while providing a level of care, support and empathy towards our students that we believe is both supportive and productive. Our school has created an inviting and friendly culture where parents, staff and students can work together to nurture optimism and success.

We have a strong focus on promoting academic rigour through the consistent implementation of a documented and resourced whole school plan. This has resulted in high-quality student work, increased student learning outcomes and enhanced student confidence. At Belvedere Park Primary School, we encourage optimism, respect, responsibility, trust, empathy, initiative and resilience. Belvedere Park promotes high standards in Numeracy, Literacy, Digital Technologies and all other areas of student participation. The Physical Education, Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Languages programs are vital parts of our learning environment bringing depth, engagement and increased participation to our well-balanced curriculum and pedagogy.

Whole-school team planning by our committed staff, based on high expectations for student achievement, underpins our core purpose to provide flexible, targeted learning programs to accommodate a variety of learning styles. To this end, our staff participates in ongoing professional learning directed towards improved student learning outcomes.

Belvedere Park Primary School is a positive, supportive and optimistic school with a culture that promotes successful student outcomes. We are extremely proud of our school, our students, our staff and our community.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

Belvedere Park Primary School's vision is to provide high-quality education where students are encouraged to reach their personal best academically, socially and emotionally; and prepare them to become active, engaged and responsible citizens of the local and wider community.

Our mission is to prepare students to contend with a very dynamic 21st century in which creativity, cooperative work, connectedness to the world and adaptability are key features. The school aspires to provide a contemporary approach to teaching and learning in its purposeful learning environment.

Belvedere Park 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:

1. **RESPECT –** being polite and respectful to everyone
2. **RESPONSIBILITY** – being a trusted and reliable friend, looking after your property
3. **HONESTY** – being truthful and fair
4. **KINDNESS** - being friendly, ready to help and looking after each other
5. **COURTESY** – being polite, using good manners
6. **EMPATHY** - caring for each other, showing understanding and compassion
7. **INITIATIVE** – thinking for yourself and taking action when required
8. **RESILIENCE** – the capacity to bounce back after encountering problems, difficulties and down time

3. Wellbeing and engagement strategies

Belvedere Park 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:

<u>Universal</u>

- 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
- delivering the Victorian Curriculum and differentiate as required to ensure that all students are actively engaged in the teaching and learning program
- teachers at our school use the Belvedere Park Primary School 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 Belvedere Park 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 JSC and Class Circles
- create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through school plays, athletics, music programs and peer support programs
- we engage in school wide positive behaviour support with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:
    - Respectful Relationships
    - Bully Stoppers/National Day of Action Against Bullying
    - Cyber safety
- programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific needs or behaviour (i.e. anger management programs)
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, clubs, recess and lunchtime activities)
- buddy programs, peers support programs
- 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 year group has a Level Leader and Learning Specialist who monitors the health and wellbeing of students in their year, and act as a point of contact for students who may need additional support
- 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
- our English as a second language students are supported through our EAL program, and all cultural and linguistically diverse students are supported to feel safe and included in our school
- we support learning and wellbeing outcomes of students from refugee background
- 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
- wellbeing and health 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
- students enrolled under the Department's international student program are supported in accordance with our legal obligations and Department policy and guidelines at: International Student Program

Individual

Belvedere Park 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

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
    - with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.

Other Department programs and services:

- Program for Students with Disabilities
- *Mental health toolkit*
- *headspace*
- Navigator
- LOOKOUT

4. Identifying students in need of support

Belvedere Park 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. Belvedere Park 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
- engagement with support services or allied health professionals

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.

Rights	**Responsibilities**
All students have a right to: • Participate fully in their education • Feel happy and be safe and secure • Learn in an environment free from bullying, harassment, violence, discrimination and intimidation • Learn and succeed without disruption • Be treated equally with respect, fairness and kindness • Play without interference • Be heard and have their opinions valued • Be accepted and included as individuals • Express their ideas, feelings and concerns • Be informed	Students have a responsibility to: • Participate fully in their education • Respect and care for each others • Allow fellow students to learn and play without interference • Follow class and school rules • Behave in a considerate, cooperative and courteous manner • Listen to others • Accept differences of others • Respect school and individuals' property • Use positive language • 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/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, Belvedere Park 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
- referral to the Year Level Coordinator
- 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 Belvedere Park 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

Belvedere Park 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.

Rights and Responsibilities of Parents/Carers:

Rights	**Responsibilities**
Parents/carers have a right to: • Access the principal, teachers and support involved in the education of their children • Be treated with respect and fairness • Be involved in the education of their children	Parents/carers have a responsibility to: • Recognise the rights of students, staff and other parents • Instil in their children a positive attitude to learning, discipline and school • Support and contribute to the school's policies and curriculum • Be supportive of the staff in their efforts to provide a high standard of education • Communicate openly, through correct channels, issues that may affect a student's performance at school • Promote positive educational outcomes for their children by taking an active interest in their child's educational progress and by modelling positive behaviours. • Ensure their child's regular attendance • Send students to school punctually and in the correct, clean school uniform and in a rested state • Engage in regular and constructive communication with school staff regarding their child's learning. • Support the school in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students.

8. Evaluation

Belvedere Park 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

Belvedere Park 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 and Compass Education
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- 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	August 2025
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Ben Moncrieff, Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2027