

Student Engagement Policy

North Melbourne Primary School

Issue Date: 11/10/2018

Review Date: 11/10/2021

SCHOOL Nº 1402



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.

North Melbourne 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.

POLICY

School values, philosophy and vision

The North Melbourne Primary School philosophy is underpinned by the following beliefs and practices:

- All children can learn
- Learning outcomes will be maximised when children feel safe, connected and engaged at school
- Students are encouraged to be active and self-directed in their learning
- Our school values are reflected in all we do

Mission: Guaranteed extraordinary learning opportunities for students, providing a rich curriculum and evidence-based practices of teaching.

Vision: Students will contribute positively to their local, national and global communities.

At North Melbourne Primary School, we value being **Responsible, Inclusive, Sagacious** and **Ethical**.



Engagement strategies

North Melbourne 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 engagement strategies used by our school is included below:

Whole School

North Melbourne Primary School implements a range of strategies that support and promote whole school engagement. These include:

- 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
- teachers at North Melbourne Primary School use an instructional framework to ensure an explicit, common and shared high yield teaching practices are incorporated into all lessons
- teachers at North Melbourne 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
- carefully planned transition programs to support students moving into different stages of their schooling (i.e. Prep Transition, Grade 6 High School Practice)
- 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 through the Student Representative Council. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Year Level Coordinator, Assistant Principal and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- we engage in school wide positive behaviour support with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:
 - Respectful Relationships
 - Aristotle Program
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, clubs, recess and lunchtime activities)
- buddy programs, peers support programs



Targeted/Individual

North Melbourne Primary School implements a range of strategies that support and promote targeted and individual engagement. These can include:

- building constructive relationships with students who are at risk or 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
- connecting all Koorie students with a Koorie Engagement Support Officer
- any 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
- referring the student to:
 - school-based wellbeing supports (i.e. school based counselling, Healing Minds Psychology)
 - Student Support Services (DET)
 - Appropriate external supports such as youth and family services, other allied health professionals, Headspace, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) 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
- running regular Student Support Group meetings for all students:
 - with a funded disability under the Program for Students with a Disability
 - in Out of Home Care
 - and with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.

Identifying students in need of support

North Melbourne Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. The Wellbeing Team plays a significant role in developing and implementing strategies help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. North Melbourne 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 and suspension data
- engagement with families

Student rights and responsibilities

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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.

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 concern about something that has happened at school are encouraged to speak to their parents or carers and approach a trusted teacher or member of the leadership team.

Engaging with families

North Melbourne 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 Communication Process.
- providing parent volunteer opportunities so that families can contribute to school activities
- coordinating resources and services from the community for families
- including families in Student Support Groups and developing individual plans for students.

Evaluation

North Melbourne 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
- case management
- CASES21
- SOCS