



STUDENT WELLBEING AND ENGAGEMENT

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.

Auburn 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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2. School values, philosophy and vision
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POLICY

1. School profile

Our history

On April 8th, 1889, the Auburn State School No 2948 was opened in a rented hall on Queens Ave, on the other side of Auburn Road, around one kilometre from the current school grounds. Part of the current site on Rathmines Road was purchased a few months later in June 1889 and work commenced on the new school. It was opened on October 14th, 1890, with 402 students with the first building being the two story that fronts Rathmines Road, that currently houses our year 3 – 6 students. Three years later, more than six hundred students and staff were crammed into six classrooms, so a second building, in the same style, was opened on October 10th, 1913. This is the building that currently houses our Foundation students and the Visual Arts room. A school hall on the site of the current office and Auburn Hall was added in 1963 and in 1971, the school became Auburn Primary School. In 1998 the main building, infant school, gazebo, and two shelter sheds were considered to be of historic significance to the State and were added to the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR 1707). A new building was added in 2011, the spacious modern classrooms that house the Year 1 and 2 students. All other classrooms were renovated from 2012 and 2014, to enhance the open plan, or ‘flexible learning space’ philosophy. A new office and the Auburn Hall were also built during this time.

Auburn today

Today Auburn Primary School experiences strong enrolment demand and has approximately 385 students. The school has been zoned, restricting attendance to those in the local community. All areas of the school have now been renovated, including the old bike shed which has been refurbished into a kitchen and Science area, and supports our gardening program. Our Junior and Senior yard areas both have playgrounds, as well as sports areas for the students to play on, and our kitchen garden and green house are popular with students across the school. While new buildings give a sense of renewal, there is much that remains traditional, and highly valued, by the Auburn community.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

Auburn Primary School is a friendly, caring school community. Our motto: *Learn* from the past, *Connect* with the present, *Create* our future, acknowledges the value we attribute to our history while recognising the necessity to equip students with the skills and knowledge to successfully participate in a rapidly changing world.

We offer a balanced and comprehensive program of learning and we are committed to providing a safe, caring environment for every student. Parents are actively encouraged to be partners in the learning process and are vital to the strong sense of community for which Auburn is renowned in the local area. We work hard to foster a strong sense of community and belonging.

Philosophy

Within an enthusiastic, caring, friendly, child-centred learning environment, our school strives to ensure that all children will:

- be happy in themselves and enjoy coming to school
- become confident, successful, self-motivated, independent lifelong learners
- have high, but realistic expectations of themselves and others
- be literate, numerate and confident to take their place in a complex technological world
- be responsible learners empowered to make decisions that positively affect their lives and society
- work co-operatively with their peers and other members of the school community

- be tolerant, respectful and appreciative of people and their differences.

Our School Values are:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Resilience

3. Wellbeing and engagement strategies

Auburn 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 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

- maintain 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 and 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
- teachers at Auburn Primary School use the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model as an instructional frameworks 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 adopting 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
- incorporating our school's Statement of Values and School Philosophy into our curriculum and promoting it to students, staff and parents so that they are shared and celebrated as the foundation of our school community
- carefully planning transition programs to support students moving into different stages of their schooling
- acknowledging positive behaviour and student achievement in the classroom, and formally in school assemblies and communication to parents
- monitoring student attendance and implementing attendance improvement strategies at a whole-school, cohort and individual level
- providing students the opportunity to contribute to and provide feedback on decisions about school operations through the Student Representative Council and other forums including year group meetings and peer support groups. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, year level coordinator, assistant principal and principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- creating opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through school plays, athletics, music programs and peer support programs

- welcoming all students to self-refer to the Assistant Principal, Principal, Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader, and Wellbeing Leader 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
- engaging in school wide positive behaviour support with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:
 - Respectful Relationships
 - School Wide Positive Behaviour Supports
 - The Resilience Project
 - Real Schools
- developing programs, incursions and excursions to address issue specific needs or behaviour
- creating opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. lunchtime clubs)
- putting measures 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

Our targeted strategies to address particular groups of students or concerns in certain age groups or friendship circles include:

- having a Learning Leader responsible for each year group who monitors the health and wellbeing of students in their year, and acts as a point of contact for students who may need additional support
- supporting Koorie students to engage fully in their education, in a positive learning environment that understands and appreciates the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture – refer to our Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety Action Plan for further information
- supporting our English as a second language students through our English as an Additional Language (EAL) program, and supporting all cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) students to feel safe and included in our school
- supporting learning and wellbeing outcomes of students from refugee background
- providing a positive and respectful learning environment for our students who identify as LGBTIQ+ and following the Department of Education (the department) policy on [LGBTIQ+ Student Support](#) [insert any specific measures at your school to support LGBTIQ+ students]
- supporting all students in Out of Home Care 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
- supporting students with a disability 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
- ensuring wellbeing and health staff 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 applying a trauma-informed approach to working with students who have experienced trauma

- supporting students enrolled under the department's international student program in accordance with our legal obligations and department policy and guidelines at: [International Student Program](#)

Individual

Auburn 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 students and their parents/carers to talk about how best to help the students 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 The Orange Door
 - Speech/Occupational Therapy and psychologist in established relationships with the school

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 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.

4. Identifying students in need of support

Auburn Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. The Assistant Principal, Principal, Wellbeing Leader and Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader play a significant role in developing and implementing strategies help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Auburn 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
- Student Support Groups and Individual Education Plans

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 and School Philosophy 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 School Philosophy/Student Code of Conduct.

Violence, bullying, and other offensive and harmful behaviours such as racism, harassment and discrimination is not 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, Auburn Primary School will institute a staged response, consistent with the department's policies on behaviour, discipline and student wellbeing and engagement. Where appropriate, parents and carers 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:

- [Suspensions Policy](#)
- [Expulsions Policy](#)
- [Restraint and 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.

The principal of Auburn 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

Auburn Primary School values the input of parents and carers, and we 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/carers have access to our school policies and procedures, available on our school website
- maintaining an open, respectful line of communication between parents/carers and staff, supported by our Communicating with School Staff Policy.
- providing parent/carers 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

Auburn Primary School collects 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 are assessed on an annual basis include:

- student survey data
- incidents data
- school reports
- parent survey
- case management
- CASES21, including attendance and absence data
- Student Online Case System (SOCS)

Auburn Primary school also regularly monitors 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 is 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/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 policies and resources are relevant to this Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy:

- [Attendance](#)
- [Behaviour - Students](#)
- [Child Safe Standards](#)
- [Expulsions](#)
- [Koorie Education](#)
- [LGBTIQA+ Student Support](#)
- [Restraint and Seclusion](#)
- [Student Engagement](#)
- [Students with Disability](#)

- [Supporting Students in Out-of-Home Care](#)
- [Suspensions](#)

The following school policies are also relevant to this Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy:

- Action Plan - Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Statement of Values and School Philosophy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	22/6/2026
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2028