



PASCOE VALE SOUTH
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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.

Pascoe Vale South 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

Pascoe Vale South Primary School (PVSPS) was established and officially opened on February 2nd 1954.

The PVSPS community is culturally and socially diverse and we actively strive to meet the learning needs of all students. Many of our students come from families with high educational aspirations. We aim to ensure learning programs are engaging, purposeful and challenging. We are committed to building the core foundations of literacy and numeracy and encourage every child to achieve appropriate mastery of literacy and numeracy across all learning domains.

We acknowledge that each child possesses unique characteristics and we encourage each one to aspire to excellence by using appropriate stimuli to meet their wide diversity of needs. Students are challenged with explicit teaching to ensure they become confident, independent and self-motivated life-long learners with high self-esteem and resilience.

It is the school's responsibility to initiate the appropriate level of education for each child. A diverse range of learning and teaching programs support students to develop a range of skills and strategies that enable them to be critical, creative and caring thinkers. Reasonable adjustments are made to ensure students with disabilities are able to engage in the learning programs of our school. Individual Education plans are developed for students as deemed necessary.

Everyone is encouraged to achieve their personal best by putting in effort and commitment to improvement in skills and knowledge. Students are encouraged to feel secure in accepting challenges. Achievement, success and effort in learning are acknowledged and celebrated.

Students are encouraged to work cooperatively and collaboratively with their peers and other members of the school community and to be active and responsible citizens. Each student is supported to behave and make decisions and be active participants in their own learning based upon the school values of Respect, Learning, Caring and Enjoyment which are an integral part of our School Wide Positive Behaviour Framework. All students are helped and supported to maximise their potential.

Student, parent and staff relationships are highly valued and encouraged, promoting all to feel engaged and connected as a community of learners - a place to belong, learn and thrive, Students who feel safe, challenged and supported by a positive school environment are able to aspire to be the best they can.

Whole school prevention statement

At Pascoe Vale South Primary School our core purpose is to develop children to be literate, numerate and curious, and to be part of a vibrant and engaged community of staff, family and friends. Our school values underpin our actions and provide direction in our decision-making.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

Pascoe Vale South 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 respect, Caring, Learning and Enjoyment at every opportunity.

Our school's vision is to develop global citizens who belong, learn and thrive. This includes to contribute positively to society as active, happy and healthy young adults.

Our Statement of Values is available online at: <https://www.pvsps.vic.edu.au/page/7/Our-Policies>

Respect - means valuing ourselves; treating others fairly; appreciating different circumstances and views; considering others, their property and the environment

Caring - means valuing self, others and the environment; showing empathy, tolerance and understanding; welcoming students, staff, families and friends by promoting a sense of belonging and sharing in our school;

Learning - means embracing new ideas and challenges

Enjoyment - means developing a sense of belonging and achievement; stimulating curiosity and exploration as well as providing opportunities for choice, discovery and creative self-expression; having a positive attitude and approach and is the outcome of the other three values

3. Wellbeing and Engagement strategies

To realise our purpose, our school has in place 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 recognise that some students, as a group or as individuals may need extra social, emotional or educational support to flourish at school, and so we put in place strategies to identify these students and provide them with the support they need.

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 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
- teachers at Pascoe Vale South Primary School use an 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 Pascoe Vale South 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 including kindergarten to primary school and primary school to secondary college
- 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. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Assistant Principal and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through school concerts, athletics, music programs and peer support programs
- all students are welcome to self-refer to the Student Wellbeing and Inclusion Coordinator, 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
 - The Resilience Program
 - eSafety
- 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
- 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

- our students have their classroom teacher, the Assistant Principal and Principal who monitor the health and wellbeing of students, 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. The school is also supported by KESO (Koorie Education Support Officers)
- 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 through Student Support Services and Foundation House
- 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 \[insert any specific measures at your school to support LGBTIQ+ students\]](#)
- 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. We are also supported by Lookout Education Support
- 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

Pascoe Vale South 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 Education 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 Orange Door / ChildFirst
 - Re-engagement programs such as Navigator

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.

4. Identifying students in need of support

Pascoe Vale South Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. The Leadership team plays a significant role in developing and implementing strategies to help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Pascoe Vale South 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
- 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:

- 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.

6. Student behavioural expectations

Behavioural expectations of students are grounded in our school's Statement of Values. Student bullying behaviour will be responded to consistently with Pascoe Vale South Primary School's Bullying policy which can be found at <https://www.pvsps.vic.edu.au/page/7/Our-Policies> .

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. Our school considers, explores and implements 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 logical consequences such as moving a student in a classroom or other reasonable and proportionate responses to inappropriate behaviour
- withdrawal of privileges
- referral to the Leadership Team
- restorative practices
- in house suspension only if necessary in extreme cases and has been approved by principal class and discussed with the parents.

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 Pascoe Vale South 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

Pascoe Vale South 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.
- Continual communication to families regarding their children's social, emotional and academic development

8. Evaluation

Pascoe Vale South 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
- SOCS

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website <https://www.pvsps.vic.edu.au/>
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in student diaries so that it is easily accessible to parents, carers and students
- Included as annual reference in our Principals' Post
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

Our school will also ensure it follows the mandatory parent/carers 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 Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Statement of Values and School Philosophy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2022
Consultation	School Council - June 2022 School communication portal – Compass – June 2022 School Staff – Term 3
Approved by	Carmel Lancuba - Principal
Next scheduled review date	2024