

STUDENT WELFARE

TAWONGA PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY

Note – The school’s ‘Student Engagement and Inclusion Policy’ must be read in conjunction with this document

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Tawonga Primary School is committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment for all students. Students can reach their full educational potential only when they are happy, healthy and safe, and when there is a positive school culture to engage and support them in their learning. Our school acknowledges that student wellbeing and student learning outcomes are inextricably linked.

It is fundamental to acknowledge that each teacher is a vital source of support and a determinant in the success of their students. The teachers at this school will work collectively to ensure that students feel valued and cared for, have meaningful opportunities to contribute to the school and can effectively engage with their learning. This school recognises the need to be engaging and inclusive, recognising and responding to the diverse needs of our students, accommodating different learning profiles and rates of learning and intervening early to identify and respond to individual student needs.

Our school strives to be a learning community where students and teachers can relate well to each other, and where different ideas and viewpoints are valued and respected.

Refer: The [*Effective Schools are Engaging Schools: Student Engagement Policy Guidelines*](#)

Refer to: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/schoolimprovement/>

2. GUIDELINES

- 2.1 The school will focus on establishing positive and respectful relationships, particularly between teachers and students, and establishing a learning community that provides multiple and diverse opportunities for students to experience success.
- 2.2 The school will collaboratively develop and implement a fair and respectful whole-school behaviour management approach.
- 2.3 The school will encourage and provide multiple opportunities for parents/carers and members of the broader community to play an active part in the life of the school and the education of their children.
- 2.4 The school’s curriculum will include pro-social values and behaviour to enable students to acquire knowledge and skills, value diversity and build a culture of learning, community and engagement.
- 2.5 The school will promote active student participation and provide students with a sense of ownership of their environment.
- 2.6 The school will support families to engage in their child’s learning and build their capacity as active learners.
- 2.7 The school will establish social/emotional and educational support for vulnerable students and monitor and evaluate progress.
- 2.8 The school will have processes in place to identify and respond to individual students who require additional assistance and support.
- 2.9 The school will build strong links with the local community to gain access to an extended network of community members, professionals and educators who can provide expertise and experience that can build the capacity of our school and our teachers to respond to the needs of the students.

3. PROGRAM

3.1 The curriculum programs of the school will recognise and respond to the diverse needs of the school's students by:

- accommodating different learning profiles and rates of learning
- intervening early to identify and respond to individual student needs

3.2 The school is committed to the delivery of an inclusive curriculum that ensures all our students have access to a quality education to meet their diverse needs.

To improve educational outcomes for students with disabilities, the following key strategies are in place:

- providing parents/carers with a learning program that best suits their child's needs
- involving students and parents in programming and planning decisions
- supporting students access to programs that let them pursue achievable pathways
- ensuring the expertise of teachers working in our school is maintained and developed

3.3 Our school will implement a whole-school behaviour management approach that is based on pro-social values, social competencies, incentives and positive peer relationships.

The key focus will be on prevention and early intervention strategies that:

- define and teach school-wide and classroom expectations
- establish consistent school-wide and classroom consequences for problem behaviour
- establish school-wide and classroom processes for early identification of students experiencing academic and/ or behaviour difficulty
- provide school-wide and classroom processes for ongoing collection and use of data for decision-making
- empower students by creating multiple opportunities for them to take responsibility and be involved in decision-making
- provide a physical environment conducive to positive behaviours and effective engagement in learning
- utilise evidence-based interventions, monitored regularly for those students who face difficulty with learning and/or behaviour

[Calmer Classrooms: A Guide to Working with Traumatised Children](#), developed by the Office of the Child Safety Commissioner, provides teachers and schools with effective relationship based classroom and school-wide strategies.

3.4 Student voice/student participation is about valuing people and valuing the learning that results when we engage the capacities and multiple voices in the school. It focuses on realising the leadership potential inherent within all learners. There are five dimensions to student participation:

1. student involvement in school and community development
2. students as researchers and co-enquirers
3. student feedback on teaching and learning
4. students as peer-tutors
5. student involvement as a manifestation of inclusion principles

The school promotes active 'student participation' as an avenue for improving student outcomes and facilitating school change. Student participation ranges from young people sharing their opinions of problems and potential solutions through student council or in focus groups associated with school strategic planning. It also includes our students sharing their 'voice' by collaborating with teachers to actually improve education outcomes, including helping to improve teaching, curriculum and teacher-student relationships and leading to changes in student assessment.

3.5 Implementing preventative and early intervention strategies to support positive behaviours is a key part of the Student Welfare Policy at our school. Prevention and early intervention strategies the school will deploy include:

- defining and teaching school-wide and classroom expectations
- establishing consistent school-wide and classroom consequences for problem behaviour
- establishing school-wide and classroom processes for early identification of students experiencing academic and/ or behaviour difficulty
- providing school-wide and classroom processes for the ongoing collection and use of data for decision-making
- empowering students by creating multiple opportunities for them to take responsibility and be involved in decision-making
- providing a physical environment conducive to positive behaviours and effective engagement in learning
- utilise evidence-based interventions, monitored regularly for those students who face difficulty with learning and/or behaviour

3.6 Longitudinal data will be collected regarding frequency and types of welfare issues, so as to measure the success or otherwise of school-based strategies and approaches.

Some sources of data are:

- the Attitudes to School Survey data
- School Level Report data
- Parent Opinion Survey data
- data from case management work with students

3.7 The school will utilise relevant external student wellbeing support services in order to identify and address the barriers to learning that individual students may be facing. Such services to provide support for students and staff may include:

- psychologist for psychological and academic assessment
- mentors – providing support for 'at risk' children
- Department of Human Services case managers and support workers
- social workers to provide services such as counselling, social skills and anger management programs
- youth agencies
- local parent support groups
- relevant DEECD support staff
- C.A.S.A. [Centre Against Sexual Assault]
- School Focused Youth Service (SFYS)

4. LINKS AND APPENDICES (including processes related to this policy)

Links which are connected with this policy are:

- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/wellbeing/engagement/default.htm>
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/additionalneeds/default.htm>
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/wellbeing/attendance/default.htm>
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/wellbeing/sfyouthservices/default.htm>
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/wellbeing/policy.htm>
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/safety/default.htm>
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/wellbeing/oohc/effect/behaviour.htm>
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/wellbeing/oohc/support.htm>

5. EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed annually or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

June 2014