

Student Engagement Policy

PURPOSE

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.

Mount View Primary 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.

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2. School values, philosophy and vision
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POLICY

1. School profile

Mount View Primary School, established in 1965, is situated in the suburb of Glen Waverley. The school has a very large student enrolment drawn from a community with a high student family education and occupation profile. The enrolment includes students enrolled in the school's Deaf Facility.

A school neighbourhood boundary was introduced in 2011, and the school population consists of students living locally. Students are grouped into single year level classes across the school.

Our school is culturally diverse with **25%** of families having a language background other than English (LOTE), with the largest LOTE groups being Chinese (Mandarin), Vietnamese and Hindi. We are proud of our diversity and inclusive school community.

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We strive to provide a nurturing and challenging environment that empowers students to reach their personal best, both academically and socially.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

Our 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 mutually linked.

Our schools' vision is to empower students to be motivated, compassionate, life-long learners helping to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

Our Values: Empathy, Integrity, Respect, Accountability

3. Engagement strategies

Mount View 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.

Mount View Primary School works collaboratively with students and parents/ carers to establish fair and respectful behaviour policies and practices, based on the school's values, expected social competencies and positive peer relationships. There are also intervention strategies in place to address inappropriate behaviours which can negatively impact on the learning environment of the self and others.

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
- 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 Mount View 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 Mount View Primary school adopt a broad range of teaching and assessment approaches to effectively respond to the diverse learning styles,

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strengths and needs of our students and follow the standards set by the Victorian Institute of Teaching

- Our school's Statement of Values 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 Student Representative Council. 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, athletics, music programs and school values program.
- We engage in school wide positive behaviour support with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:
 - Respectful Relationships, The Resilience Project
 - programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific behaviour (i.e School Values Program, Cybersafety Project, Circle Solutions)
- Opportunities for student inclusion (ie. sports teams, clubs, lunchtime activities)
- Prep and Year 5 buddy programs,

Targeted

- Each year group has their classroom teacher 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
- All students working below the expected level, all disability funded and all Koorie and Out of Home Care students will be on an Individual Learning Plan.
- All students in Out of Home Care will be referred to Student Support Services for an Educational Needs Assessment and have termly meetings with carers, Principal, teacher and Student Support Service professionals
- School staff will undertake student wellbeing training and professional learning in response to needs identified by classroom teachers or other school staff during the school year.
- Relevant teaching staff will apply a trauma-informed approach (using [Calmer Classrooms: A Guide to Working with Traumatized Children](#), Berry Street Educational Model and similar resources) to working with students who have experience trauma, such as students from refugee backgrounds or who are in out of home-care.

Individual

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Student specific strategies that may be considered and applied on a case by case basis include:

- [Student Support Groups](#)
- [Individual Education Plans](#)
- [Behaviour - Students](#)
- [Behaviour Support Plans](#)
- [Student Support Services](#)

as well as to other Department programs and services such as:

- [Program for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Mental health toolkit](#)
- [headspace](#)
- [Navigator](#)
- [LOOKOUT](#)

Mount View Primary School implements a range of strategies that support and promote individual engagement. These can include:

- Meet with student and their parent/carer to talk about how best to help the student engage with school
- Building constructive relationships with students at risk or students who are vulnerable due to complex individual circumstances
- Establish a Student Support Group
- Seek extra resources under the Program for Students with Disabilities for eligible students
- Develop a Behaviour Support Plan and/or Individual Education Plan.
- Consider if any environmental changes need to be made, for example changing the classroom set up.
- Refer to internal support services eg. Student Welfare Coordinator or Student Support Services
- Refer to external support services including Child First, Local Government Youth 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
- running regular Student Support Group meetings for all students:
 - with a disability
 - in Out of Home Care

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

4. Identifying students in need of support

Mount View 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. Example 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
- Engagement with families

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, 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 speak to their classroom teacher or a member of the school leadership team.

6. Student behavioural expectations and management

Behavioural expectations of students, staff and families are grounded in our school's Statement of Values. Student bullying behaviour will be responded to consistently with Mount View Primary School Bullying policy.

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When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Mount View 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 Mount View Primary School is responsible for ensuring all suspensions and expulsions are recorded on CASES21.

Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school and will not be used in any circumstance.

7. Engaging with families

Munt View Primary School values parent / carer input into its operations and curriculum offerings and seeks feedback through the Parent Opinion survey, and from parent representatives on School Council. 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.

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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.

- Inviting parents/carers to school-based events such as assemblies, athletics, etc
- Providing parents with information evenings to give them information on assisting students at home

8. Evaluation

Mount View 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, including the Attitudes to School Survey
- Incident data
- School reports
- Parent survey
- Data extracted from software such as CASES 21, Compass, SOCS

Mount View Primary school will also regularly monitor available data dashboards (Compass School Management System) 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 Management System – School Documentation
- 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/carers notification requirements with respect to suspensions and expulsions outlined in the Department's policies at:

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- [Suspension process](#)
- [Expulsions - Decision](#)

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

BULLYING PREVENTION