

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.

Newport Gardens 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.

CONTENTS

1. School profile
2. School values, philosophy and vision
3. Engagement strategies
4. Identifying students in need of support
5. Student rights and responsibilities
6. Student behavioural expectations
7. Engaging with families
8. Evaluation

POLICY

1. School profile

Newport Gardens Primary School is an inner metro government school situated in Newport Melbourne and is part of a community hub. We work in partnership with a care program through 'Outside School Hours Club' (OSH) and the Newport Gardens - Early Learning Centre, who are placed next to our school site. As a school within the South-West Melbourne region within the Hobson's Bay network, we are active participants in the system beyond our school site with a close connections to neighbouring learning communities.

Our school facilities, which were built through a combination of Federal grants through the Building the Education Revolution program, and State Government funding, resulted in a complete rebuild of the school in 2011. Our facilities provide the school with a library, art room, administration block including offices, conference and meeting rooms, gymnasium, stage, kitchen/garden, science lab as well as 14 permanent classrooms and currently we have 10 portable classrooms. These classrooms support our approach to student learning with flexible teaching spaces, allowing all students to work in a collaborative working environment that caters to the needs of all our students.

Our School Family Occupation Education Index (0.2103) demonstrates low levels of disadvantage. Of our total school population, 9% of learners are equity funded. We have 6% of families having a language background other than English. This percentage has remained relatively stagnant over a 5 year period.

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) indicates that 11% of our student population have a disability that requires a greater level of support in accessing educational outcomes. This percentage has reduced quite considerably since 2017.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

Newport Gardens Primary School's vision - 'Nurturing Our Future' is the underpinning tenacity that enables us to support all students to grow and develop. Our core values: continuing to Grow as a Learner, Include Others and Improve form the base of our positive school environment. Through the application of a School Wide Positive Behaviour (SWPBS) culture we focus on improving student achievement and wellbeing as part of an intentional and caring community.

At Newport Gardens Primary School, students work in learning communities where teams of teachers take collective responsibility towards the overall development of all students

As an SWPBS school we implement a framework that brings together our school community in developing a positive, safe and supportive learning culture. This approach enables us to improve the social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes for our students. The School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports (SWPBS) provides an organizational approach or framework for improving the social behavior climate of the school and supporting and enhancing the impact of academic instruction on achievement and increasing proactive (positive/preventive) management.

The key attributes of SWPBS include preventive activities, data-based decision making, and a problem solving orientation. SWPBS is an approach with four core, defining features:

- outcomes: supporting social competence and academic achievement
- systems: supporting staff behaviour
- data: supporting decision-making
- practices: supporting student behaviour

Newport Gardens 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 Grow, Include and Improve at every opportunity. Our school's vision is to empower students to reach their personal best, and fully equip them to contribute positively to society as happy, healthy young adults.

3. Engagement strategies

Our aim is to continually improve as a learning community, with positive management and engagement strategies that enable improved student learning outcomes. We strive to build a positive and orderly learning environment with clear student routines and high expectations for learning, behaviour and presentation. We strive to build positive and professional staff-student relationships and to communicate clear expectations about attendance, participation and positive social behaviours. 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. We also work to maintain effective partnerships with key agencies and student support services.

A summary of the universal (whole of school), targeted (year group specific) and individual engagement strategies used by our school is included below:

Universal

- establishing a safe, secure and inclusive learning environment

Newport Gardens Primary School has a zero tolerance for any form of child abuse.

- modelling, teaching and encouraging our school-wide values, shared expectations and the expected behaviours as defined on our SWPBS Matrix

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Matrix

	Inside <small>Inside areas, including classrooms, the gym, library and other learning spaces on our campus</small>	Outside <small>Outside areas, including oval, soccer field, basketball court, playground, garden, library</small>	Digital Technology <small>Using any devices, apps and networks devices</small>	Always <small>At times at all times</small>
Be a Learner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I display whole body listening I take responsibility for my own learning I display a growth mindset I share my ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I play fair, take my turn and follow game rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use the internet as a learning resource I bring my device charged and ready for learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I INCLUDE others, show empathy, and accept their differences I GROW by being resilient and challenging myself I persistently strive to IMPROVE I collaborate with others I can identify and manage my emotions I can solve problems I am a good friend I keep my hands and feet to myself I am on time, courteous and respectful I have a positive attitude to my learning I seek help and help others I think critically and creatively I keep my environment clean and organised I use all school equipment and spaces correctly I take responsibility for my actions
Be Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I look after and use learning spaces, materials and equipment appropriately I listen when others are speaking and value their opinions I respect people's right to learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I put rubbish in the bin I use the bathrooms responsibly at appropriate times I demonstrate sportspersonship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I handle all devices with care I follow school procedures 	
Be Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I move safely around the school I ask teachers before leaving a learning space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am sun smart I stay within the designated areas I take others' safety into consideration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I only use teacher approved applications and websites I report cyber bullying I follow the Digital Technology Acceptable Use Agreement 	

- maintaining high and consistent expectations of all staff, students and parents and carers
- prioritising positive relationships between staff and students, recognising the fundamental role this plays in building and sustaining student wellbeing
- 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
- delivering a challenging, significant, relevant and engaging curriculum program that is tailored to student interests, strengths and aspirations
- using the Gradual Release of Responsibility and High Impact Teaching Strategies as an instructional framework to enable an explicit, common and shared model of instruction and ensure that evidenced-based, high yield teaching practices are incorporated into all lessons
- 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 (VIT)
- carefully planning transition programs to support students moving into different stages of their schooling including our 'START Program' at the beginning of each school year
- acknowledging positive behaviour through our school values and student achievement in the classroom through verbal encouragement and feedback, displays of student work, Showcases' of Learning, active communication to parents and carers and formally in school assemblies
- rigorous monitoring of student attendance and implementing attendance improvement strategies at a whole-school, cohort and individual level
- empowering students to be involved in school decision-making and leadership activities
- Ensuring that students who have demonstrated unacceptable behaviours towards others repair the relationship, for example by apologising, reflecting and reviewing the behaviour and demonstrating understanding of alternative positive behaviours
- connecting to external student support services, as appropriate
- providing opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sport teams, recess and lunchtime club experiences)
- students have the opportunity to contribute to and provide feedback on decisions about school operations through the SRC and other forums. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Year Level teaching staff, Wellbeing Coordinator, Assistant Principal and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through school plays, athletics, music programs and peer support programs
- All students are welcome to self-refer to the Student Wellbeing Coordinator, School Nurse, School Chaplain, Year Group Leaders, Assistant Principal and Principal if they would like to discuss a particular issue or feel as

Newport Gardens Primary School has a zero tolerance for any form of child abuse.

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

- programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific behaviour (i.e. anger management programs)
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, clubs, recess and lunchtime activities)
- buddy programs and student leadership roles.

Targeted

- ensuring that each year group has a Team Leader, a senior teacher responsible for their year, who assists in monitoring the health and wellbeing of students in their year, and act as a point of contact for students who may need additional support alongside the classroom teacher
- connect all Koorie students with a Koorie Engagement Support Officer
- all 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
- Wellbeing Coordinator and general 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 with the support of senior leadership and our Wellbeing Coordinator
- targeted intervention programs are available for students on a needs-basis (Social Skills Groups, Drumbeat, tutoring and small group instruction)

Individual

- Individual Education Plans and Behaviour Support Plans
- Student Support Groups (SSG) meetings in the 6th week of each term to address the goal achievement and 'next steps' for a child with additional needs both socially and academically.
- Program for Students with Disabilities - funded student support
- referral to Wellbeing Coordinator, Student Support Services and senior leadership
- referral to ChildFirst, Headspace, Parentline

Newport Gardens 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 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 ChildFirst*
 - *Re-engagement programs such as Navigator*

Newport Gardens Primary School has a zero tolerance for any form of child abuse.

Where necessary we 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 disability
 - in Out of Home Care
 - and with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.

4. Identifying students in need of support

Newport Gardens 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. Newport Gardens 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

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 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.

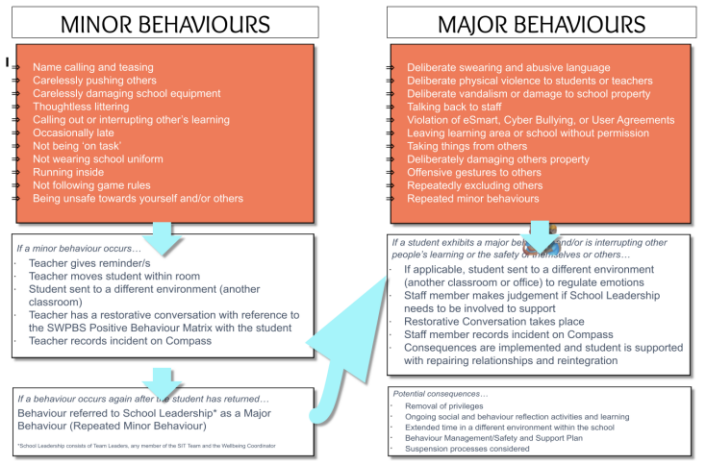
Students who may have a complaint or concern about something that has happened at school are encouraged to speak to their parents or carers and approach a trusted adult

Newport Gardens Primary School has a zero tolerance for any form of child abuse.

6. Student behavioural expectations

Behavioural expectations of students, staff and families are grounded in our school's Statement of Values and SWPBS Matrix. Student bullying behaviour will be responded to consistently with Newport Garden's Bullying policy.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Matrix				
	Inside <small>Indoor spaces, including classrooms, playgrounds, and all other areas of the school</small>	Outside <small>Outdoor spaces, including playgrounds, sports fields, and all other areas of the school</small>	Digital Technology <small>Devices, including mobile phones, tablets, and all other digital devices</small>	Always <small>At all times and in all places</small>
Be a Learner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I respect when body listening I take responsibility for my own learning I display a growth mindset I share my ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I play fair, take my turn and follow game rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use the Internet as a learning resource I bring my device charged and ready for learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I INCLUDE others, show empathy, and accept their differences I GROW by being resilient and challenging myself I persistently strive to IMPROVE I collaborate with others
Be Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I look after and use learning spaces, materials and equipment appropriately I listen when others are speaking and value their opinions I respect people's right to learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I put rubbish in the bin I use the bathrooms responsibly at appropriate times I demonstrate sportsmanship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I handle all devices with care I follow school procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can identify and manage my emotions I can solve problems I am a good friend I keep my hands and feet to myself I am on time, courteous and respectful I have a positive attitude to my learning
Be Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I move safely around the school I ask teachers before leaving a learning space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am sun smart I stay within the designated areas I take others' safety into consideration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I only use teacher approved applications and websites I report cyber bullying I follow the Digital Technology Acceptable Use Agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I keep my environment clean and organised I think critically and creatively I seek help and help others I use all school equipment and spaces correctly I take responsibility for my actions



When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, the SWPBS Behaviour Flowchart will be used to consider next steps. This enables teachers to have a clear and consistent approach to managing behaviour across the school, as well as giving ownership to the students and their families through their contributions. Staff will discuss the type of behaviour with students while also considering appropriate consequences.

Newport Gardens Primary School will institute a staged response, consistent with the Department's Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidelines. Where appropriate, parents will be informed about the inappropriate behaviour and the action taken by teachers and other school staff.

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: (see behaviour flow-chart)

- 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 Wellbeing Coordinator
- restorative practices
- loss of privilege
- behaviour reviews
- suspension
- expulsion

Suspension and expulsion are measures of last resort and may only be used in particular situations consistent with Department policy, available at:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/engagement.aspx>

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

Newport Gardens Primary School has a zero tolerance for any form of child abuse.

7. Engaging with families

Newport Gardens 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, particularly in regards to our SWPBS implementation
- coordinating resources and services from the community for families
- including families in Student Support Groups, and developing individual plans for students.

8. Evaluation

Newport Gardens 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
- Compass data (major v minor behaviours)
- school reports
- parent survey
- community surveys in review of SWPBS documentation
- case management
- CASES21
- SOCS

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Related policies and resources

Statement of Values and School Philosophy Policy

Antibullying Policy

Student Engagement and Inclusion Policy - <https://www.newportgardensps.vic.edu.au>

Department of Education School Policy and Advisory Guide: Student Engagement -

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/engagement.aspx>

Department of Education School Policy and Advisory Guide: Child Safe Standards -

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/childsafestandards.aspx>

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in July 2021 and is scheduled for review in July 2023.

Newport Gardens Primary School has a zero tolerance for any form of child abuse.