



Student Engagement

Rationale

- Every student deserves a safe and positive learning experience where they are engaged and supported to reach their potential.
- Schools develop student engagement policies to document how they:
 - create and maintain a positive and engaging school culture
 - create and maintain environments that are safe and supportive
 - value diversity and promote pro-social behaviour
 - promote school attendance
 - adopt a staged approach to promote positive behaviours
 - apply disciplinary measures
- As part of this, Student Engagement Policies should also articulate the expectations and aspirations of the school community in relation to student engagement, including strategies to address bullying, school attendance and behaviour.
- A school's policy should be developed in consultation with the wider school community including school leaders, teachers, students and parents. For more information on how to develop a Student Engagement Policy see: [Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidance - Student Engagement Policy](#) at the website below.
- A school's student engagement policy should include:
 - a school profile statement
 - a statement outlining the school values, philosophy and vision
 - the engagement strategies to be used across the school, including a reference to universal, targeted and individual strategies
 - behavioural expectations and the consequence for when these expectations are not met which include details of a staged response
 - the process to evaluate and update the policy
 - a statement that corporal punishment is not permitted at the school
- To ensure schools meet the requirements of the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) Minimum Standards, a Student Engagement Policy must include:
 - details in relation to monitoring the daily attendance of each student enrolled at the school
 - policies and procedures that ensure that the care, safety and welfare of students is in accordance with any applicable State and Commonwealth law (including student welfare and bullying, cyberbullying and harassment)
 - policies relating to the discipline of students that are based on principles of procedural fairness and include an explicit statement that corporal punishment is not permitted.
- A school-level policy needs to be compliant with the Department's policy requirements.

Purpose

- To ensure Essendon Keilor College complies with DET policy and guidelines in regard to student engagement.
- To create a school culture that promotes student attendance, positive behaviour and a safe, supportive environment.

Implementation

- In consultation with school staff, parents and students, the school will develop a Student Engagement Policy that contains all the elements that meet DET requirements above.
- To help members of the school community understand the needs of the school, the school profile statement will detail the diversity of the student population and school community.

- The Student Engagement Policy will include a global statement about the philosophy of the school before moving on to more specific statements relating to the school community. Two examples of global statements are:
Every member of the school community has a right to fully participate in an educational environment that is safe, supportive and inclusive.
Everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.
- Information about a school's values, philosophy and vision will set the tone and direction of the Student Engagement Policy. This information will include:
 - the engagement and wellbeing goals and targets related to school improvement strategies and actions identified through the school's Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan
 - a specific statement outlining the school's commitment to addressing bullying, including cyberbullying
 - a statement about the rights and responsibilities of all students, teachers and parents/carers within the school community.
- The Student Engagement Policy will outline a range of evidence-based strategies that the school will use to positively engage students in learning and intervene early when problems arise. These will describe the:
 - **universal** (school-wide) engagement strategies that create a safe, inclusive and empowering environment
 - **targeted** (population-specific) engagement strategies that meet the varied needs of vulnerable cohorts, including both prevention and intervention strategies
 - **individual** (student-specific) engagement strategies for students at risk, including strategies to identify and respond to individual student circumstances when regular attendance is not consistent or positive behaviours are not demonstrated.
- The school may also wish to include reference to the Principles for Health and Wellbeing. The Principles are a reminder of good practice when working with children and young people and are intended to promote, nurture and support the health and wellbeing of Victorian children and young people.

Principle 1 – Maximise access and inclusion

Principle 2 – Focus on outcomes

Principle 3 – Evidence-informed and reflective practice

Principle 4 – Holistic approach

Principle 5 – Person-centred and family sensitive practice

Principle 6 – Partnerships with families and communities

Principle 7 – Cultural competence

Principle 8 – Commitment to excellence

- The Student Engagement Policy will detail the shared school community expectations for behaviour and the consequences and sanctions to be taken when these are not met. These actions will include both support measures and disciplinary measures.
- The Student Engagement Policy will be treated as a living document and will be regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure the policy reflects emerging issues and takes account of new data about the school's performance.
- To ensure that the Student Engagement Policy continues to reflect the school community's expectations and aspirations, the school will report on its effectiveness to their community.
- When reviewing the Student Engagement Policy, the school may consider including a reference to the Principles for Health & Wellbeing. For more information, please refer to the website below.

- Please refer also to the school's *Child Safe Policy, Discipline Student (Overview) Policy, Bullying & Harassment Policy, Internet Use/Social Media Policy, Children at Risk Policy* and the *Wellbeing & Learning Policy*.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update early July 2017).

References:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/engagement.aspx
www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/policyrequirements.aspx