



# 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.

Laurimar 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.

## POLICY

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

### School's Philosophy

Laurimar Primary School is now in its 11th year, built by the Department of Education and Training (DET) opening in 2009. Laurimar is situated on 3.4 hectares of land, 30km from the CBD, in Melbourne's northern residential growth area.

The school has a current population of 1016 students. Growth within the school has been rapid. The school continues to grow due to our positive reputation and has a strong focus on excellence in Primary Education. It is the aim of all staff to help the children settle into their new dynamic school community and build 21st Century Learning skills, attitudes, values and respect that they need to fully participate in the rich educational life of our school.

The master planned community, along with the primary school, includes; a town centre, supermarket, shops, childcare, kindergarten, sports fields, War Memorial and recreation facilities which have been opened over the past 11 years, create a dynamic setting for young children to be supported in their learning. The construction of a childcare, kinder and

maternal health care facility in close proximity to our F-2 Learning Centre creates an exciting and innovative Early Childhood Education precinct for the Laurimar community to benefit from.

Laurimar PS enjoys outstanding physical resources that enable us to provide students with the best possible educational opportunities and learning outcomes. The modern facilities and 21<sup>st</sup> Century teaching and learning pedagogy represent an exciting opportunity for students and parents, and have established the school's strong culture, values and nature. The school is committed to Information and Communication Technologies with flexibility to allow access anywhere within the learning spaces.

The school is designed and built to incorporate the latest facilities for engaging students and comprises six buildings:

- \*Two Learning Centres, each comprising ten general purpose classrooms that feature open plan working areas with ICT facilities throughout, wet areas, withdrawal area and indoor toilets
- \*Fifteen double open plan relocatable classrooms with staff centre in each, all controlled by heating and cooling
- \*Arts Centre, (comprising Music room, Visual Arts room, breakout room and kitchen)
- \*Administration Centre, Staffroom and main Resource / Library Centre
- \*Full size gymnasium with canteen facility and associated amenities
- \*Two bike sheds housing 400 spaces for bikes and scooters
- \*Fully operational OSHC building incorporating Out of School Hours and Vacation Care and school television studio with the capability to stream live broadcasts into all learning spaces. This building is also home to another large "Green Screen" to produce movies.
- \*Japanese Zen Garden and Indonesian Tropical Garden that reflects our commitment to Asian Literacy

Expansive outdoor recreation areas include a full size synthetic grass soccer / hockey pitch, playground equipment and asphalt play areas. Access to two adjoining well maintained sport / football ovals and landscaped grounds add to the aesthetic appeal of the school environment.

Recent constructions include a Zen Garden, gazebo/BBQ area, outdoor coverway over the assembly area, additional playgrounds and an RSL endorsed Cenotaph/War Memorial which holds annual Remembrance & Anzac Day Services. We recently opened our newly designed Foundation Development Play Area.

Laurimar Primary School is committed to the academic, social & emotional learning and personal growth of every student.

A focused curriculum, dedication to innovation and a culture of care from all staff will help us meet this commitment. Our school is well resourced in AusVELS curriculum. A balanced, engaging and comprehensive curriculum constantly challenges students to extend their learning and cater for all individual needs.

Our aim is to challenge students to be the very best they can be. Our role is to help every student reach their full potential through setting personal goals. The skills needed for the 21st century, which support a love of learning that goes beyond the classroom, are actively embraced by our school. A high emphasis is placed on the development of social/emotional learning of every child through a dedicated team.

Teachers are highly valued and help to set the tone and culture within our educational institution. A strong coaching program has been developed and team teaching between classes is embraced. Importantly, we aim to be leaders in education and in social and emotional learning. This involves setting up and implementing innovative practices in the use of ICT in the curriculum. The school has been set up to showcase these innovative practices and how they enhance student learning. The use of interactive televisions, smart boards, digital cameras, notebooks and the 1:1 iPad program are features. There is an extensive range of ICT resources available which are integrated into the curriculum programs

with a focus on developing a digital learning environment. Students in the school have access to a range of online curriculum resources to support learning both in the classroom and at home.

The school has achieved a great deal over the 11 year period, however, as a school community, we all look to a bright future with great optimism and excitement and constantly strive to take the learning to higher levels. Laurimar PS has a strong focus on excellence in Primary Education for all students and will constantly strive for ongoing improvement with our students.

- Enrolment trends

After 113 students commenced at the school in 2009, enrolment rose steeply in the second and subsequent years with growth between 200-250 students each year. Over the past 4 years we have grown to a maximum of 1091 students with the current student population at 1016. With additional new schools opening in the area, enrolment numbers have plateaued from year to year.

- Staffing and Leadership profiles

Our staffing profile consists of a total 120 employees, 5 Principal Class, 69 teacher class and 46 education support employees.

The school's leadership profile consists of Principal, 5 Assistant Principal's, 6 Teaching and learning leaders, and business manager

Our curriculum programs comprises a 10 hour literacy program each week focussed on CAFE' ( Comprehension, Accuracy/ Fluency and Expanded Vocabulary. Numeracy program of 5 hours using the whole school Maths scope and sequence, an integrated approach with overarching throughlines for units of work, an enrichment program that caters for children at the lower level using the Fountas and Pinnell, Levelled Literacy Intervention Program and for those students who need to be extended through maths Olympiad and Tournament of the Minds.

STEM being taught as a through line in conjunction with explicit lessons as part of the Expressive Ed program has enabled a strong Science Inquiry approach.

### School Vision

At Laurimar Primary School our vision is to create an innovative, high performing, learning environment that nurtures each student's personal, social, physical and academic development.

Our school's powerful **motto** is 'Learning, Partnerships, Success'

### School Values;

At Laurimar Primary School we value,

**RESPECT** - of oneself, others and property

**CO-OPERATIVE** and **FRIENDLY** environment, where students share **RESPONSIBILITY** for their own learning and behaviour

**SAFE** and secure learning environment

Development of students **SELF ESTEEM**

**GROWTH** and **SUCCESS** of all students

Foundations for student success and growth based around our 'You Can Do It' program

- **CONFIDENCE**

- **ORGANISATION**

- **GETTING ALONG**

## - RESILIENCE

## - PERSISTENCE

The Laurimar Primary School community has much to celebrate when reflecting in the previous strategic plan. Throughout this period we persistently focused on continuous improvement in order to provide a quality education for all students. In part, our success is due to our collective sense of purpose which is maintained by high expectations and supported through procedural clarity.

The school's procedures and practices are based on:

- An open and consultative approach that promotes shared problem solving, task assessment and action appraisal.
- Policies and programs that reflect current initiatives.
- A commitment to the development of ongoing quality learning programs that develop skills, recognise abilities and celebrate achievement.

Our Philosophy is lived, practised and enacted on a daily basis through all lessons in every classroom and each play time. In addition it is promoted and encouraged by;

- Regular promotion at all Whole School Assemblies where a monthly flag flies to promote our value of the month and acknowledging all students with a 'Student of the week' or legend of the month award highlighting our values
- References in the newsletter
- Reinforcing through our social and emotional learning program that focuses on You Can Do It
- Our strong presence with our Chinese Exchange program with both inward and outward trip to China
- All students and teachers modelling common language around our school values and social and emotional learning program
- Promoting at all parent information evenings

### **Engagement strategies**

Laurimar Primary School 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.

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 Laurimar 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 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 and other forums including class meetings and student Leadership Team meetings. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Operations and Welfare Leaders, Teaching and Learning Leaders, Assistant Principal and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through school production, athletics, music programs, cross country, STRIVE and buddies program.
- All students are welcome to self-refer to the Operations and Welfare Leaders, Teaching and Learning Leaders, 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
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, clubs, recess and lunchtime activities)
- buddy programs, peers support programs

### Targeted

- each year group has a Operations and Welfare Leader, a senior teacher responsible for their year, who monitor the health and wellbeing of students in their year, and act as a point of contact for students who may need additional support
- 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
- Example School assists students to plan their Year 10 work experience, supported by their Career Action Plan
- 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

### Individual

- Student Support Groups, see:  
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/supportgroups.aspx>
- Individual Learning Plan and Behaviour Support Plan
- Program for Students with Disabilities
- referral to Student Welfare Assistance Principal and Student Support Services
- referral to ChildFirst, Headspace
- Navigator
- Lookout

Laurimar 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

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
- 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**

Laurimar 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
- 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 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 approach a trusted teacher or a member of the school leadership team.

## 6. Student behavioural expectations

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 Laurimar Primary School's Bullying Prevention policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Example 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 disciplinary 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:

- 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 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.

## 7. Engaging with families

Laurimar 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
- 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.

## 8. Evaluation

Laurimar 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

- incidents data
- school reports
- parent survey
- case management
- CASES21
- SOCS

## **REVIEW CYCLE**

This policy was last updated in November 2020 and is scheduled for review in November 2024. This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four year review cycle.