



STUDENT WELLBEING & ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Daylesford Primary School
Drummond Primary School
Yandoit Primary School



*We are Respectful, We are Responsible Learners, We are Honest and Trustworthy,
We are Caring and Compassionate, We are Good Citizens*

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students and members of our school communities understand:

- our commitment to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for students
- expectations for positive student behaviour
- support available to students and families
- our schools' policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour.

Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit Primary Schools are 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 schools acknowledge that student wellbeing and student learning outcomes are closely linked.

The objective of this policy is to support our schools 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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POLICY

1. School profile

Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit Primary Schools, with a combined enrolment of almost 300 students, are located in the rural townships of Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit respectively. We have a combined staff of 41 (1 Principal, 1 Assistant Principal, 22 Teaching Staff and 17 Support Staff with a range of time fractions). Sitting within diverse, expanding communities, each location creates an environment in which our students feel part of a friendly, inclusive, respectful, caring and supportive environment.

Learning and growing together is our motto, which we support with active values of Respect, Honesty, Caring and Citizenship. Each location provides a dynamic learning environment wherein students can develop resilience, manage their own learning and strive for their personal academic, creative and social best.



*We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.
We are proud to acknowledge Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners of this Country.*

Daylesford Primary School, established in 1875, boasts heritage buildings, a swimming pool, gymnasium, and an Open Learning Centre with a commercial grade kitchen facility. Our curriculum provision is comprehensive, with three specialists delivering in Performing Arts/Choir, Visual Arts and LOTE/Italian. Our classrooms are interactive and the use of ICT strengthens student engagement. We also have a very successful Kitchen Garden Program.

Drummond and Yandoit Primary Schools are small rural campuses nestled between pastures and bushland. The schools are community hubs, delivering an individualised, holistic approach to education that promotes success for all. The multi-age classrooms are where teachers and parents enjoy a collaborative relationship. We place an emphasis on our unique environment that provides natural opportunities to exercise and enhance learning, behaviourally and cognitively

We are a Lead School for Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships, a whole school approach to promote and model respect and equality. Through this program and our Families Program we embed respectful relationships and student connectedness across all schools.

Communication between schools and school communities is valued. Opportunities for parental and community involvement are integral to our school culture. The vibrant and enriched local culture is embraced with strong community links demonstrated through the Swiss-Italian Festa, Cultural Day, Words in Winter festival and Kitchen Garden programs.

Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit Primary Schools are committed to developing our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). We seek to provide inspiration and leadership to our communities through our reconciliation activities.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit Primary Schools promote success for all within caring communities by working with students to:

- Strive for excellence in all aspects of their learning
- Build resilience and develop highly effective social skills
- Show respect for themselves, others and the environment.
- Build a strong sense of personal identity through participation in our community.
- Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit Primary Schools are committed to “Learning and Growing Together” based on the agreed values:
 - We are Respectful
 - We are Responsible Learners
 - We are Honest and Trustworthy
 - We are Caring and Compassionate
 - We are Good Citizens

3. Engagement strategies

Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit Primary Schools have developed a range of strategies to promote engagement, positive behaviour and respectful relationships for all students in our schools. 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 schools is included below:

Universal

- high and consistent expectations of all staff, students and parents/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 Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit School use a four part model 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 Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit Primary Schools 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 and Philosophy 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 communities
- 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 Junior School Council and Student Leadership Programs. Students are encouraged to speak with their teachers, assistant principal and school principal when they have questions or concerns.
- create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through buddies, family groups, athletics, and performing arts programs.
- All students are welcome to self-refer to classroom teachers, 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, parents and staff are partners in learning
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, clubs, recess and lunchtime activities)
- we engage in school-wide programs designed to support our students. These include:-
 - Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR)
 - Focus of the Fortnight
 - multi-age Families Program

These programs are supported by resources and practice principles linked with Amplify.

Targeted

- Preparation for Puberty
- E Safety/Cyber Safety
- Kitchen Garden
- Transition activities
- Various clubs

Individual

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

- building constructive relationships with students at risk or students who are vulnerable due to complex individual circumstances
- meeting with students 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 Child and Family services (CAFS), other allied health professionals, Headspace, child and adolescent mental health services or ChildFirst

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

Where necessary the schools 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 plan 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

Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit Primary Schools are 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 to support and enhance student wellbeing. Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit Primary Schools 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 and Philosophy Policy 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 and Philosophy Policy. Student bullying behaviour will be responded to consistently with Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit Primary School's Bullying Prevention Policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit Primary School's 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 Assistant Principal or Principal
- restorative practices
- behaviour reviews
- in school or at home suspensions
- 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

Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit Primary Schools value 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 Code of Conduct 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.

8. Evaluation

Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit Primary Schools 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

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Please see related policies on our website including:

- Statement of Values and School Philosophy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Child Safe Standards
- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Policy
- Digital Technologies Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Attendance Policy

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was approved by School Council in November 2019 and is scheduled for review in November 2020.