



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.

Banyan Fields 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.

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POLICY

1. School Profile

Banyan Fields Primary School is located in Carrum Downs, 6km north of Frankston.

Our Primary School is situated within the Northern Peninsula area with a population of approximately 700 students, 350 female and 350 male, 24 percent were identified as EAL (English as an Additional Language) students and 3 percent ATSI (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) students.

Eligible students can access the Program for Students with Disabilities and students in Out of Home Care are supported in line with the Out of Home Care Education Commitment: Partnering Agreement.

The school has become a community hub; developing positive participation and providing a meeting place where residents of all ages can feel safe and enjoy social inclusion.

We continue to work on peer and school connectedness for our students and parents. Our students are friendly, interested in others and welcome new students into the school.

Our school values are Belonging, Resilience, Ambition and Integrity and these concepts are promoted amongst staff, students and the broader school community.

2. School Values, Philosophy and Vision

Banyan Fields Primary School 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 Belonging, Resilience, Ambition and Integrity.

Belonging: Including everyone using the common themes of acceptance; tolerance; caring and loyalty.

Resilience: Bouncing back using the common themes of learning from mistakes; mental toughness and never give up, even when it is hard.

Ambition: My very best effort using the common themes of high expectations of myself and others; spirit; future success; self-belief and doing my very best.

Integrity: Always doing the right thing using the common themes of truth, honesty and trust.

Our Statement of Values is available online at: <https://www.bfps.vic.edu.au/policies>

Our school's vision is to create a bright future for our learners. We are committed to providing academic, emotional and social education within our learning community, by creating positive members of society who will demonstrate belonging, resilience, ambition and integrity.

3. Engagement strategies

Banyan Fields 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. We support the belief that all students are provided with the supports that they need to succeed, and these needs differ for each child.

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

Universal

- high and consistent expectations of all staff, students and parents and carers
- staff commitment to the implementation of School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support with fidelity
- promotion of a growth mindset for all students and staff
- 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
- deliver a broad range of extra-curricular opportunities
- teachers at Banyan Fields use the Workshop Model 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 Banyan Fields 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 – Kindergarten to Foundation, Grade 6 to Secondary School, new students, moving up to the new grade level.
- positive behaviour and student achievement is acknowledged
- monitor student attendance and implement attendance improvement strategies at a whole-school, cohort and individual level
- The school is committed to engaging allied services to support students social and emotional wellbeing which could include; Psychologists; Chaplain services; Occupational Therapists; Speech Therapists; Kinesiology or other services as required.
- we engage in school wide positive behaviour supports with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:
 - Respectful Relationships
 - School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support
- buddy programs

Targeted

- The school has a Wellbeing team with members from across the school and a dedicated SWPBS team
- Assistant Principal and two Leading teachers focussed on Wellbeing
- Connect all Koorie families with a Koorie Engagement Support Officer
- All students in Out of Home Care will be appointed a Learning Mentor, have an Individual Education Plan and will be referred to Student Support Services for an Educational Needs Assessment
- All students on the Program for Students with Disabilities have an Individual Education Plan and termly Student Support Group meetings are held
- Staff will apply a trauma-informed approach to working with students who have experienced trauma
- Literacy Support Program to boost literacy skills of students slightly below the expected level

Individual

Banyan Fields 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 Education Plan and/or a Behaviour Support or Safety 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

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 attendance improvement plans in collaboration with students and their family
- running regular Student Support Group meetings for all students:
 - on the PSD program
 - in Out of Home Care
 - and with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.

4. Identifying students in need of support

Banyan Fields 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 to help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Staff 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
- student incident records
- 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 rights of others to learn.

The School Council expects that all students, parents, staff and visitors of the school conduct themselves in the following way:

- Listen and respond with consideration, speaking politely;
- Support, help and treat others fairly;
- Support school procedures, policies and requests;
- Take care of the school's property and environment;
- Take pride in our school and promote a community spirit;

- Report any concerns relating to student safety to the Principal or Assistant Principal in line with the Child Safe Standards.

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 the Bullying Policy.

Banyan Fields have high expectations for student behaviour and hold the belief that social and behavioural skills require the same amount of teaching as academic skills.

Through the implementation of the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support framework we are developing a whole-school approach to responding to challenging behaviours and acknowledging desired behaviours.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Banyan Fields 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 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:

- a verbal reminder to the student that their behaviour is inappropriate
- teacher controlled consequences such as moving a student within the classroom, to another classroom or other reasonable and proportionate responses to misbehaviour
- withdrawal of privileges
- 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

Banyan Fields 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

Banyan Fields 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
- student incident records
- school reports
- parent survey
- case management
- CASES21
- SOCS

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The following policies can be found on our school website <https://www.bfps.vic.edu.au/policies>

- *Statement of Values and School Philosophy*
- *Bullying Prevention*
- *Child Safe Standards*

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in April 2020 and is scheduled for review in April 2024.