



Anakie Primary School

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND WELLBEING 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.

Anakie 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

Anakie Primary School was established in 1874 and is located approximately 30 kilometres north-west of Geelong. It serves the district surrounding the township of Anakie. Whilst families choose to live in this rural community, the majority work in Geelong. Our Out of School Hours Care Program operates before and after school, and provides quality childcare in a safe environment for our working families. We have 59 students enrolled from Prep to Year 6 and 7 school staff members, which includes an Out of School Hours Care co-ordinator.

Most students that attend our school live locally, within a 10 kilometre radius. Anakie Primary School has developed close ties to the local community, and enjoys support from the Anakie Community House and other local services. The school population includes a small number of Koorie students and we proudly acknowledge and celebrate diversity.

The school is committed towards sustaining a culture of support, cooperation, tolerance and acceptance. We embrace community spirit and develop positive relationships across all levels. We value and encourage parental involvement as this enhances the school's capacity to provide a richer educational environment to positively impact on the lives of our students. Effective communication and cooperation between staff, students, parents and the wider community is of vital importance.

A feature of our small school is the positive relationships that are formed between all members of the school community. We acknowledge the value of relationships as a key to school success, and these relationships are achieved through our positive transition program, Starting Right Program at the beginning of the school year (and each term), community events, celebrations and regular informal opportunities for collaboration and celebration.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

Anakie 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 *respect, responsibility, resilience and aim for excellence* 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.

Our Statement of Values is available online at: www.anakieps.vic.edu.au

3. Engagement strategies

Anakie Primary School strives to create a caring, safe and supportive learning environment that empowers students to reach their personal best, academically, socially and emotionally. This is achieved by:

- *high and consistent expectations of all staff, students and parents and carers*
- *prioritising positive relationships between staff and students, and 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 data sets such as attendance, Attitudes to School Survey, parent survey data and school level assessment data*
- *delivery of a broad curriculum*
- *teachers at Anakie Primary School follow an evidence based 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 Anakie 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*
- *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*

- *monitoring student attendance and implementing attendance improvement strategies at a whole-school, cohort and individual level*
- *staff making necessary reports to Child Protection if they form a reasonable belief that a child is being abused*
- *students having the opportunity to contribute to and provide feedback on decisions about school operations through the Junior School Council and other forums including year group and whole school meetings. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.*
- *create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through Mindfulness, specialist programs, athletics and peer support programs*
- *All students are welcome to self-refer to any member of staff 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*
 - *School Wide Positive Behaviours*
 - *eSafe Schools*
- *programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific needs (eg: Preparation for Puberty, Cyber Safety, GFC Healthy Heroes)*
- *opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, Sustainability Group, Mindfulness and Structured Play)*

Targeted

- *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 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 Support Services*
- *referral to ChildFirst*
- *Lookout*

Anakie 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 and/or Safety Plan*
- *considering if any environmental changes need to be made, for example changing the classroom set up*
- *referring the student to:*
 - *Student Support Services*
 - *Appropriate external supports such as council based youth and family services, other allied health professionals, 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

Anakie Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. The staff play a significant role in developing and implementing strategies help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Anakie 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 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 approach a trusted staff member and also speak to their parents/carers.

6. Student behavioural expectations

Behavioural expectations of students, staff and families are grounded in our school's Statement of Values.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Anakie Primary School will institute a staged response, consistent with the Department's Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidelines. Where deemed necessary, 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. The school demonstrates a commitment to DET guidance in regard to restraint and seclusion.

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 Principal*
- *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>

Any suspensions and expulsions are recorded in Cases21 and also documented on the student's Compass profile.

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

7. Engaging with families

Anakie 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 or upon request*
- *maintaining an open, respectful line of communication between parents and staff*
- *providing parent volunteer opportunities so that families can contribute to school activities through the School Council and/or the Parents & Friend's Association*
- *involving families with 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.*

The school communicates student engagement and wellbeing approaches through the school website, newsletter, Compass posts and school assemblies.

8. Evaluation

Anakie 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
- incident data housed on Compass
- school reports
- parent survey
- CASES21
- SOCS

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Please see related policies including Statement of Values and School Philosophy, Child Safe Standards.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in February 2020 and is scheduled for review in February 2022.