

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Rationale

Alphington Primary School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and engaging learning environment that promotes the emotional wellbeing of its students. Students who understand their emotions are more likely to be resilient and perform better academically. Engaged students have the potential to become informed contributing members of society, accepting of others and empowered to shape their future.

School Profile Statement

Alphington is a school of 390 students in inner Melbourne. The safe and appealing school environment is made up of flexible learning spaces and child friendly play areas. The school is the focal point for the community and has a 100 year history of active parental and community involvement. The school's values of integrity, inclusiveness, respect, curiosity and collaboration are promoted through its learning and wellbeing programs. These programs value and cater for the diverse learning needs of students, including gender, race, language and ability. Personalised learning is provided through differentiation and an Inquiry based approach. Classrooms are technology rich with interactive whiteboards, individual netbooks in the senior school and iPads in junior classes to encourage student engagement in their learning and experience success.

Exemplary Visual and Performing Arts, Physical Education, and Languages programs support the belief that learning should be fun, stimulating and challenging. A positive approach to wellbeing is based on the rights and responsibilities for all and is integral to the school's ethos. APS is recognised for its strong academic achievement, wellbeing programs and community involvement. The school aims to prepare children with lifelong learning skills that can be applied and transferred to new and real world situations.

Aims

To:

- Provide a safe and aesthetically pleasing environment with learning opportunities for all.
- Nurture a positive school culture that is fair and respectful and where diversity and inclusiveness is valued.
- Maintain regular and punctual school attendance.
- Provide a stimulating and challenging curriculum to enhance engagement in learning.
- Promote the school's values and behaviours to support wellbeing within and beyond school.
- Foster positive behaviours and relationships within the school community.
- Provide opportunities for active student participation and decision making.

Implementation

1. This policy is implemented fairly and consistently in association with the school policies and Department guidelines.
2. The expectations and procedures for school attendance are implemented.
3. The Anti-bullying Policy and Cybersafety policies are implemented.
4. The school does not endorse corporal punishment.
5. Primary prevention and early intervention strategies are implemented throughout the school.

6. Wellbeing programs including KidsMatter, Better Buddies, Bounceback, Restorative Practices and Solving the Jigsaw are implemented throughout the school.
7. Student wellbeing is monitored through regular feedback sources.
8. Student voice is promoted through regular feedback and authentic leadership opportunities.
9. An effective transition program is implemented to support the students' transition to, from and within the school.
10. Wellbeing practises and resources are regularly communicated to the school community.
11. A Student wellbeing coordinator is appointed to lead professional development and manage resources.
12. Opportunities are provided for Parents to work in partnership with the school to foster school engagement.
13. Data is used to monitor and report student engagement to the School community.
14. The following list of resources support the implementation of the Student Engagement Policy and are implemented in the school program.
 - a) Individual Learning Plan
 - b) Staged response checklist
 - c) School-wide positive behaviour support
 - d) Restorative practices
 - e) Student Absence Learning Plan
 - f) Attendance Improvement Plan
 - g) School attendance checklist

Resources

Appendix (i) - Student Engagement Policy Supporting Documentation

Evaluation

The School Council will be responsible for the review of the Engagement Policy within the life of the School Strategic Plan.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in ...

May 2014

Appendix (i)

Student Engagement Policy Supporting Documentation

Supporting Documents	Policies and Resources
1. Complimentary Policies to ‘Student Engagement Policy’	<p>The school engagement policy is implemented in conjunction with the following policies and procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anti Bullying Policy - Community Behaviour Agreement - Complaints Policy - Equal Opportunity Policy - Disability Policy - Visitors Policy - Camp Policy - Integration Policy - Sunsmart Policy - eSmart (Cybersafety) Policy - Privacy Policy
2. Prevention/Early Intervention Programs	<p>Curriculum programs implemented to nurture and build resilience include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KidsMatter (Primary) - Bounce Back - Solving the Jigsaw - Better Buddies program - eSmart Framework - Restorative Practices - Camping Program (Years 2 to 6) - Student Representative Council - Student Action Teams - School Leaders Program - Access to Paraprofessionals (speech pathologist & educational psychologists) - Transition programs into, through and beyond school
3. Partnership with Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information evenings - Newsletter items - Parent teacher consultations - School website - School calendar - Classroom Helpers Program - Open evenings/days - Science Expo - Sustainability projects - School Council & Subcommittees
4. Surveys across School Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student Attitudes to Schooling Survey (Years 5 & 6) - PoLT Survey (Prep to Year 4) - Parent Opinion Survey

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff Opinion Survey - <i>KidsMatter</i> Staff and Parent survey - Incidental informal surveys
5. Systems of Support for Individual Students	<p>Specialized group and individual support for 'at risk' students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual Learning Plans - Individual Behaviour Management Plans - Additional teacher/education support assistance - Individual counseling offered to students with specific needs from internal and external practitioners
8. Attendance Procedures	<p>Regular attendance at school is promoted through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attendance Procedure 'Givens' established - Rigorous monitoring of attendance - Prompt 'follow up' of absences of more than a single day - The development of a staged response plan where required - Regular discussions of attendance issues carried out when needed