

Caledonian 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.

Caledonian 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

Caledonian Primary School is located in Brown Hill, Ballarat. It was established in 1877 as Brown Hill Primary School. In 1994, Brown Hill Primary School merged with Queen Street Primary, and the school was renamed Caledonian Primary School after the Scottish miners from the Gold Rush.

The attractive grounds cover over 6 acres and include a range of classrooms, a multipurpose hall for indoor sports and whole school assemblies, vegetable gardens, a fruit tree orchard, a greenhouse and plenty of outdoor play spaces including two playgrounds, a sandpit, a huge oval and netball and basketball courts.

Our friendly school community includes 230 students and over 25 staff members. We have a strong connection to the local community, including Brown Hill Kindergarten, Woodmans Hill Secondary College and the Brown Hill Festival, Brown Hill Progress Association and Brown Hill Lions Club.

Our Principal and all of the staff at Caledonian Primary School welcome visits from interested families to learn more about our school.

Students engage with an hour each of reading, writing and numeracy every day, Science twice a week, a spelling program, inquiry projects and specialist programs in physical education, creative arts and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths with a focus on robotics and coding).

We aim for consistent teaching practises across each classroom to support all students. We have a range of support and intervention programs in reading and maths to cater for individual needs.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

Caledonian Primary School places growth for all students as our highest priority. Our curriculum includes whole class, small group and individual experiences to ensure each child is able to learn and grow at their own point of need. We have a focus on purposeful teaching, where each student understands the Learning Intention of each lesson and can explain when they have been successful.

Caledonian Primary School is a Tribes Community School, where we are committed to developing positive relationships between students, teachers and families.

At Caledonian Primary School, our teachers are both skilled and caring in their approach to students and aim to provide a happy and challenging learning environment for all children. We believe in developing each child's self-esteem and resilience, and supporting everyone to reach their full potential.

We pride ourselves on our strong commitment to teaching Literacy and Numeracy, our continual striving towards best teaching practices and our engagement of students with our wide range of programs and initiatives.

We also engage well with the local community, bringing in various members to assist with many aspects of our educational program.

3. Engagement strategies

Caledonian 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 whole of school approach and individual engagement strategies used by our school are included below:

Whole School Strategies

- 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 Caledonian Primary School use an 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 Caledonian 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
- 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 Tribal Council and other forums. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Assistant Principal and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- create opportunities for cross age connections amongst students through school plays, athletics, music, school concert, buddy reading programs
- All students are welcome to self-refer to the Student Wellbeing Coordinator, 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
 - The Resilient Project
- programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific behaviour.
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, clubs, recess and lunchtime activities)
- buddy programs.

School Wide Positive Behaviour

The Caledonian Primary School community, in consultation with a Central Highlands School Wide Positive Behaviour coach, developed a clear and specific set of School Wide Positive Behaviours (SWPB) that are pro-social and focused on prevention and early intervention. SWPB is a whole school approach to creating an environment, which encourages effective learning through the development of a positive, calm and welcoming atmosphere

SWPBS is an evidence-based framework for preventing and responding to children's behaviour in schools. It aims to create a positive school climate, a culture of student competence and an open, responsive management system for school leaders, staff, students, parents/carers. It includes analysis of data in professional learning teams, implementation of evidence-based practices and organisational systems for establishing safe, purposeful and inclusive school and classroom learning environments while providing the individual behaviour and learning supports needed to achieve academic and social success for all children.

We aim to actively promote and maintain a safe, respectful and orderly learning environment for all students and staff. School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) is a school-wide process for developing and explicitly teaching appropriate and positive behaviours.

Resilience Project

Caledonian Primary School has an official partnership with The Resilience Project. The Resilience Project delivers emotionally engaging programs to schools, sports clubs and businesses, providing practical, evidence-based, positive mental health strategies to build resilience and happiness. Through presentations, The Resilient Project delivers to the whole school community including teachers, students and parents helping them understand the importance of practising and implementing key strategies to build resilience and drive sustainable change in our students.

Respectful Relationships

At Caledonian Primary School, we have Respectful Relationships, which supports schools and early childhood settings to promote and model respect, positive attitudes and behaviours. It teaches our children how to build healthy relationships, resilience and confidence. The whole-school approach to Respectful Relationships goes beyond curriculum, recognising that to drive real change, classroom learning needs to be reinforced by what is modelled within the school community.

'Big Buddy' Program

Caledonian Primary School has developed a positive partnership with Ballarat's Australian Catholic University. The 'Big Buddy' Program is in its 2nd year and continues to be a great success. Our teacher's identify students who would benefit from having a positive role model and friend in their life. These students are paired with a university student and have a weekly visit from their 'Big Buddy'. Throughout the visits, the Caledonian Primary School students have developed a positive friendship with an encouraging role model.

Breakfast Club

School Breakfast Clubs provide a warm and welcoming space for students when they arrive at school. Volunteers and staff help set up the Breakfast Club space and provide students with a variety of healthy, Victorian grown or manufactured breakfast foods. In addition to removing the barrier to learning when a child is hungry, creating a safe and social Breakfast Club environment for students has other benefits too. Positive relationships are built between peers, staff and volunteers. Most schools use their Breakfast Clubs for informal learning around nutrition, table manners and other life skills. Many schools foster student leadership through roles at their Breakfast Club.

Police in Schools, Ballarat Student of the Month Awards

In 2016 Ballarat Blue Light, a program of Victoria Police, introduced a new initiative in partnership with local Ballarat primary schools with the introduction of the Blue Light Student of the Month Awards. Our school is asked to nominate two students, one from Grade Prep to Grade 3, and then another from Grade 4 – Grade 6, who demonstrate the following values; positive school attendance, respect for school teachers, respect for their fellow students, and making a positive contribution to

the broader school community. Each month a uniformed police member who will attend at their school assembly to make the presentation in front of the whole school community presents the winners with their awards. Each award winner receives a framed certificate of achievement, an engraved Blue Light Student of the Month Medal and a free double pass to an upcoming Blue Light event.

Targeted Strategies

- 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

Individual Strategies

Students may encounter a range of difficulties needing intervention. Issues around mental health, family difficulties and breakdown, abuse and neglect may require short term or ongoing support. Caledonian Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially we will:

- clarify referral procedures
 - link students/families to counselling services
 - monitor and evaluate progress through regular student support group meetings, care team meetings and professional learning team meetings
 - Student Support Groups, see:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/supportgroups.aspx>
 - liaise with Student Support Services and other external services, including visiting teachers and psychologists and counselling
 - Individual Learning Plan and Behaviour Support Plan
 - Program for Students with Disabilities
 - referral to Student Welfare Coordinator and Student Support Services
 - referral to ChildFirst, Child Protection
 - LookOut
- Caledonian 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 a student and their parent/carer to talk about how best to help the student engage with school.
 - 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, CAFS, Centacare 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 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
 - other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.

4. Identifying students in need of support

Caledonian 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. Caledonian 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
- compass-detailed documentation of wellbeing related items.

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 and parents/carers treat each other with respect and dignity.

Students have the right to:

- participate fully in their educational program
- 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:

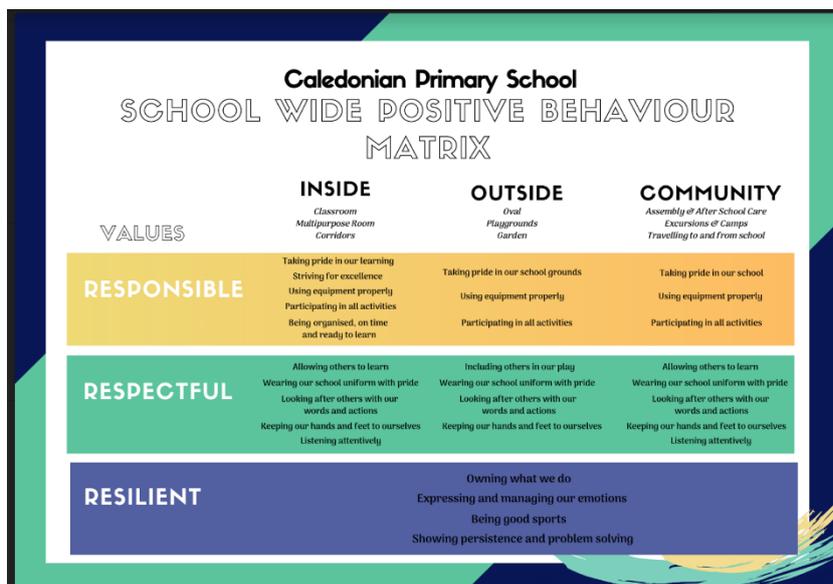
- participate fully in their educational program
- display positive behaviours that demonstrate respect for themselves, their peers, their teachers and members of the school community
- respect the right of others to learn.

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 Caledonian Primary School’s Bullying policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Caledonian 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.



Our SWPB behavioural flow chart is 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 are applied fairly and consistently.

Disciplinary measures that may be applied include:

- warning a student that their behaviour is inappropriate
- re-teach the behaviour expectation
- 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 Unit Leader
- referral to SSS
- restorative practices
- reflections
- behaviour reviews
- suspension
- expulsion

Suspension and expulsion are measures of last resort and may only be used in particular situations consistent with Department of Education and Training 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

Caledonian 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

Caledonian 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 updated and ratified on 17th September 2019 and is scheduled for review in September 2021.

Signed :- Brea Terris

Signed:- Melissa Watts

Principal

School council President