



BALWYN NORTH
Primary School

Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students and members of the Balwyn North Primary 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.

Balwyn North 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 community 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

Balwyn North Primary School was established in 1950 and is located approximately 12 kilometres north east of the Melbourne CBD. Our school is situated in a quiet suburban location away from main roads, sharing boundaries with Balwyn High School and The Merrell Kindergarten. Most students that attend our school live locally and tend to walk or ride their bike to school. Each year, a significant number of families enrol and transfer their children into the school (up to 50 new families in any given year). Most transfers into or out of the school are related to families moving into or out of the area. Balwyn North Primary School has developed close ties to the local community, and enjoys support from community groups and services. Balwyn North Primary School provides educational opportunities for students from Foundation to Year 6. Our staffing profile includes, but is not limited to, a Student Wellbeing Coordinator, first aid trained staff, as well as ongoing support from DET Student Support Services (SSS) staff. Our school is culturally diverse, with many families having a language background other than English (LOTE). We are proud of our diversity and inclusive school community. At Balwyn North Primary School, we strive to provide a nurturing and challenging environment that empowers students to reach their personal best, both academically and socially.

2. School Vision and Values

Balwyn North Primary School is committed to providing safe, secure and high quality learning and development opportunities for every student. Students can only reach their full educational potential when they are happy, healthy and safe, and when there is a positive school culture that is fair and respectful to engage and support their learning.

In recent years, Balwyn North Primary School students, parents and staff worked in partnership to develop a Vision and Values for the school.

School Values: *Strive, Inspire, Belong*

School Vision:

In the welcoming environment of BNPS, everyone has a place to be. High expectations for all are achieved through an engaging and progressive approach to education. We foster strong relationships based on mutual respect with an appreciation for our cultural diversity. We value quality teaching and deep learning to build caring and independent future thinkers.

3. Engagement Strategies

Balwyn North 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.

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

Universal

Balwyn North Primary School is an IB (International Baccalaureate) school, delivering the Victorian Curriculum through the Primary Years Programme (PYP) framework. The PYP focuses on the development of the whole child, both in school and in the world beyond. Our school offers a transdisciplinary experience for students and the whole community and delivers excellent outcomes by providing an education that is challenging, relevant and significant.

At Balwyn North Primary School, we use a range of whole of school strategies to promote engagement with learning, positive behaviour and inclusion. We:

- Maintain high and consistent expectations of all staff, students and parents and carers.
- Prioritise positive relationships between staff and students, recognising the fundamental role this plays in building and sustaining student wellbeing.
- Continuously strive to create a culture that is inclusive, engaging and supportive.
- Welcome all parents/carers and are responsive to them as partners in learning.
- Develop and maintain essential agreements with and between staff and students, to support ongoing positive and constructive relationships.
- Analyse and are responsive to a range of school data sets, such as attendance, student and parent survey data, student management data and school level assessment data.
- Adopt a broad range of teaching and assessment strategies 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.
- Incorporate the BNPS School Vision and Values into our curriculum and promote these to students, staff and parents, so that they are shared and celebrated as foundational for our school community.
- Acknowledge positive behaviour and student achievement in the classroom, and formally through school assemblies and communications to families.
- Promote our BNPS Expected Behaviours Chart (Appendix 1) to encourage expected behaviours in learning spaces, shared spaces and the playground.
- Monitor student attendance and implement attendance improvement strategies at a whole-school, cohort and individual level.
- Provide opportunities for students to contribute to and take action about issues that motivate them. For example: Student discussion forums, Year 6 Leadership roles, the Junior School Council and classroom action inquiries.
- Create opportunities for cross-age connections amongst students through extra-curricular opportunities, such as the Chess Club, musical ensembles and sporting events.
- Welcome students to approach their teacher, the Student Wellbeing Coordinator, first aid staff (Office Staff), Teaching and Learning Leaders (year level coordinators), Assistant Principal and Principal, if they would like to discuss a particular issue or feel as though they may need support of any kind.
- Engage in school wide positive behaviour support with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:
 - The Resilience Project
 - Respectful Relationships
 - Peaceful Kids
- Where required, source programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific behaviour.

- Support students to share their progress towards learning goals, reflecting upon and celebrating their achievements with parents or carers, through student portfolios and student-led conferences.
- Support students to develop enabling skills that allow successful engagement with learning.
- Implement cooperative learning structures to support students to learn collaboratively.
- Emphasise teaching and learning strategies that offer a range of differentiated, individualised and personalised experiences, to meet the needs of individual students.
- Employ the *Compass* Student Management System, to record and monitor student attendance and wellbeing concerns.

Targeted

At Balwyn North Primary School:

- Each cohort (year level group) has a Professional Learning Team (PLT) of teachers led by a Teaching and Learning Leader (TLL), who maintain collective responsibility for monitoring the learning and wellbeing of students in that year, while also being a point of contact for students who may need additional support.
- Staff undertake professional learning in first aid, health promotion, wellbeing and social skills development in response to needs identified by student wellbeing data.
- We connect all Koorie students with a Koorie Engagement Support Officer.
- Staff apply a trauma-informed approach to working with students who have experienced trauma.
- Our Year 6 students have opportunities through the School Leadership Program, to apply for a range of student leadership positions, as well as attend leadership conferences.
- We offer a sequenced camps program from Foundation to Year 6, where students have opportunities to develop increasing levels of independence and enjoy a diverse range of life experiences.
- We celebrate and enjoy special events together, such as The Welcome Barbeque, The Twilight Fun Festival, Book Week, school musicals and concerts, visiting performances, excursions and sporting events that provide further opportunities for connectedness.
- We offer transition experiences to, within and beyond our school, aimed to minimise anxiety, increase resilience and ensure students make successful transitions between different learning stages.
- Parents/carers are welcomed as active participants in their children's learning lives, through Meet the Teacher meetings, written reports, Student-Led Conferences, student portfolios, learning expos and the Year 6 Exhibition.
- Parental participation and engagement is encouraged through membership of the School Council and its subcommittees, the Parents' and Friends' Association, the Twilight Fun Festival Committee, Working Bees and parent volunteering opportunities.
- Attendance is actively promoted to ensure parents/carers understand its importance.

Individual

At Balwyn North Primary School, we have in place a range of strategies to support the engagement and attendance of individual students. These can include:

- Building constructive relationships with students at risk or students who are vulnerable due to complex individual circumstances.
- Meeting with the 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 aspects of the learning space.
- Developing an Individual Learning Plan and/or a Behaviour Support Plan.
- Referring the student to:
 - The Student Wellbeing Coordinator
 - Student Support Services (SSS)
 - 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, Balwyn North Primary 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 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

Balwyn North Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. The School Pride team plays a significant role in developing and implementing strategies to help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Balwyn North 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
- Student wellbeing and behaviour data (including suspension data)

- Engagement with families
- Self-referrals or referrals from peers.

5. Student Rights and Responsibilities

All members of the Balwyn North Primary 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 Vision and Values highlight 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 education
- 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. (See Appendix 2)

6. Student Behavioural Expectations

Behavioural expectations of students, staff and families are grounded in Balwyn North Primary School's Vision and Values. Student bullying behaviour will be responded to according to the School's Bullying Prevention Policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Balwyn North Primary School will institute a staged response, consistent with the Department's Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidelines (See Appendix 2). 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 inappropriate behaviour
- Withdrawal of privileges

- Referral to the Teaching and Learning Leader, or a member of the School Leadership Team
- Restorative practices
- Behaviour reviews
- Suspension
- Expulsion

Suspension and expulsion are measures of last resort and may only be used in particular situations consistent with Department policy. Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school and will not be used in any circumstance.

7. Engaging with Families

Balwyn North 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 Balwyn North Primary School website: <https://balwynnorthps.vic.edu.au/>.
- Maintaining an open, respectful line of communication between parents and staff, supported by our BNPS Communication with School Staff 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

Balwyn North 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 data
- Case management
- CASES21
- SOCS (Student Online Case Management System)

Data collected will be managed in accordance with the BNPS Privacy Policy.

Further information and resources

Please also note these related policies and documents:

- BNPS Bullying Prevention Policy
- BNPS Communication with School Staff Policy
- BNPS ChildSafe Policy
- ChildSafe Procedures
- ChildSafe Code of Conduct
- BNPS Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- BNPS Digital Technologies Policy
- BNPS Complaints Policy
- BNPS First Aid Policy
- BNPS Privacy Policy

Review cycle

This policy was last updated on 20th October 2020 and is scheduled for review in 2023.

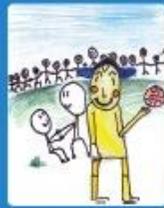
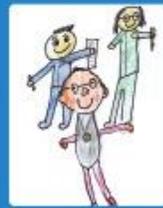
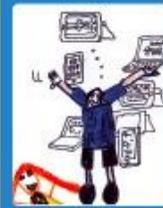


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Positive Behaviours at Balwyn North Primary School

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	Classroom	Playground	Transitions	Formal Gatherings	Shared Spaces	Online
Strive	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make good choices • Strive to be your best 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make thoughtful choices about how we treat everyone 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move quietly between spaces 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent our school respectfully 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behave in a sensitive and safe manner 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make smart choices online
Inspire	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and respect each other 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree on the rules of the game and follow them • Be a problem solver 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect other's rights to learn 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show appreciation • Celebrate successes 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take pride in our school 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share our skills and knowledge
Belong	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share and care for our resources 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be mindful of others 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay with my group 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make safe choices • Welcome all guests 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider others and treat them with respect 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect the safety of ourselves and others

APPENDIX 2:

Steps to follow when children need support to manage their behaviours:

Rationale: All children make mistakes. We work to help children resolve their problems and work together to build better understandings.

