

Yarrabah School

STUDENT WELFARE & SAFETY

POLICY

Rationale:

- This school is committed to promote a healthy, supportive and safe environment for all children and young people and to develop strategies to reduce vulnerabilities and increase coping skills. The school has an ongoing commitment to a culture of child safety. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision making

Aims:

- To provide a positive environment in which all staff assume responsibility for student welfare.
- Opportunities for students to be with safe, secure supportive environment where a sense of belonging and wellbeing are strengthened.
- To develop children and young people's positive social behaviours.
- To ensure staff are confident, skilled and proactive in the identification and reporting of student welfare and safety issues.
- To support staff strategies to cope physically and emotionally regarding student welfare and safety issues.
- To pay particular attention to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children from culturally and /or linguistically diverse backgrounds, the safety of children with a disability and LGBTI young people.
- To provide students a safe environment in which their voices (communication approach) are heard about decisions that affect their lives.

Implementation:

- Student Welfare and Safety is a shared responsibility between school, home and the community.
- Every person involved in Yarrabah School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.
- The Principal and Assistant Principal will coordinate student welfare and child safety across the school.
- The school will implement welfare support structures (welfare committee) and programs which prioritise and address the identified needs of individual students.
- The school will provide written guidance on appropriate conduct of behaviour towards children.
- Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities.
- Zero tolerance of child abuse
- Engage only the most suitable people to work with children who have a range of disabilities and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development.
- The school will provide the following support structures: -
 - Monitoring of, and responding to, protracted student absences, regular agenda items at section meetings specific to student welfare and safety
 - Student Wellbeing Plans
 - Protocol for Mandatory Reporting
 - Student Support Group's
 - Bullying Policy
 - Injuries to student Policy
 - Student Engagement & Wellbeing
 - Health & Wellbeing Policy

- The school will also access additional school and outside services to provide support for students and staff which include: -
 - Psychologist for psychological and academic assessment, student wellbeing programs and counselling.
 - Department of Human Services case managers and support workers
 - Welfare Worker to provide services such as counselling, for families
 - Local parent support groups
 - Relevant DET support staff
 - OH&S staff support.....Ph: 1800337068
- The school will endeavour to cater for: -
 - Children identified with specific welfare issues by creating support groups, developing appropriate individual programs including goals, monitoring performance and behaviour, and providing ongoing support.
 - Students identified as being at risk or displaying inappropriate behaviours by developing Student Wellbeing Plans.
 - Students that reside in Out of Home Care
- The school has a commitment to monitor and review the adherence of the Student Welfare and Safety Policy by:-
 - Agenda item in all school council meetings
 - School Council ratifications
 - Parent survey in Kidsmatter
 - Leadership evaluation of Parent Opinion and Staff Opinion Survey annually as minuted in leadership meetings.
- This policy will be available publicly on the school website.
- The school values and encourages input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the schools 3 year review cycle.

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

April 2018

Revision Record

Date	Version	Revision description
<u>27/03/2018</u>	<u>1.2</u>and LGBTI young people (aims point 6)
19/04/2018		<i>Ratified</i>