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2.22 Student Engagement & Well-Being Policy

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students and members of the Roberts McCubbin Primary School community understand:

1. our commitment to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for students
2. expectations for positive student behaviour
3. support available to students and families
4. our schools’ policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour.

Roberts McCubbin Primary School has a commitment to **zero tolerance of child abuse**. We support and respect all students. We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability, in line with the Child Safe Standards.

Roberts McCubbin 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, incursions and excursions.

**CONTENTS**

1. School Profile
2. School values, philosophy and vision
3. Engagement strategies
4. Student rights and responsibilities
5. Student behavioural expectations
6. Engaging with families
7. Evaluation

**School Profile**

Roberts McCubbin Primary School is located in Box Hill South and was established in 1994. The school is committed to maintaining a culture of continuous improvement in all areas of teaching and learning. We have high expectations for all students with a strong focus on literacy and numeracy. Our integrated inquiry based curriculum aims to engage the children, develop a love of learning and achieve success within our class structures. The specialist programs we offer are Visual Art, Performing Arts, Music, Physical Education, Robotics, Library and LOTE (Japanese). Our modern facilities with larger, flexible teaching spaces that allow the implementation of more effective and innovative teaching and learning. This is supported by all classrooms being equipped with interactive technologies which are used as key teaching tools. We support and develop positive, meaningful partnerships with parents and the wider community and have a high level of parent participation.

At Roberts McCubbin Primary School we are also committed to creating a school which has a shared understanding and language about learning. We believe it is essential that there is a continuing dialogue about teaching and learning in a community that is rich in reflection and collaboration.

**School Values, Philosophy and Vision**

At Roberts McCubbin Primary School we believe that every child is unique and every child can succeed. All children need to feel safe and happy at school and have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Learning is greatly enhanced when children:

* are supported by developmentally appropriate practice, matching their learning needs to their individual rate of development
* are actively engaged in a variety of learning experiences
* develop a positive self-esteem by experiencing success and knowing that their efforts are valued
* are encouraged to solve problems and be comfortable ‘risk takers’
* learn in a stimulating, attractive and supportive environment, where parent involvement is encouraged and celebrated
* are exposed to a variety of learning styles
* work in cooperation and respect the rights of others

Roberts McCubbin Primary School’s Statement of Values and School Philosophy and our Safe & Happy Book 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 creativity, endeavour, respect, trust, honesty and friendliness at every opportunity.

***Respectful Relationships***

Roberts McCubbin Primary School will show commitment to gender equality and respectful relationships is essential in creating a supportive environment to prevent violence against others. Commitment to these values, will be demonstrated by staff and students alike, is essential for supporting the development and maintenance of school structures, policies and procedures that promote equality and respect.

Please refer to **Roberts McCubbin Primary School - Respectful Relationships ACTION PLAN 2019**

Our Statement of Values is available online at <https://robmacps.vic.edu.au/policies-and-documents>.

**Engagement Strategies**

Roberts McCubbin 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.

Whole school strategies that promote positive behaviour and inclusion:

* Roberts McCubbin Primary School’s Statement of Values and our *Safe & Happy Book* are incorporated into our curriculum and promoted to students, staff and parents so that they are shared and celebrated as the foundation of our school community
* High and consistent expectations of all staff, students and parents and carers
* Prioritising 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 Participation Survey data, student management data and school level assessment data
* Delivering a broad curriculum to ensure that students are able exposed to subjects and programs that will help grow their interests, strengths and aspirations
* Using the RMPS Instructional Model to ensure an explicit, common and shared model of instruction, including using, e5 & HIT strategies to ensure that evidenced-based, high yield teaching practices are incorporated into all lessons
* Adopting 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 are in place to support students moving into different areas of the school and into Year 7 s.
* 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
* Creating opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through multi-aging class groupings, bi-annual school production, and buddy programs
* Engaging in school wide positive behaviour support with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:
  + Restorative Practices
  + *Safe & Happy Book*
  + Respectful Relationships
  + Restorative Practices
  + Kids Matter
  + Better Buddies
* Opportunities for student inclusion
* Leadership opportunities eg. Junior School Councillors

Roberts McCubbin Primary School will use coordinated early intervention and prevention strategies to identify and respond to individual students who require additional assistance and support. The school will provide the following support structures:

* Monitoring of, and responding to student absences
* Management & Behaviour Plans for students in need
* Protocols & procedures for mandatory reporting
* Student Support Groups for children in need

Roberts McCubbin Primary School will utilise relevant external wellbeing support services in order to identify and address the barriers to learning that individual students may be facing. Such services to provide support for students and staff include:

* DET psychologist & speech therapist for psychological and academic assessment
* OnPsych (psychological) services
* Department of Human Services case managers and support workers
* ES staff to support social skills groups and strategies for students
* Relevant DET support staff

**Students Rights and Responsibilities**

All members of our school community have a right to experience a safe and supportive school environment in order for optimum teaching and learning to flourish. 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
* Be treated with kindness and respect
* Experience tolerance and acceptance of differences

*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.

**Student Behavioural Expectations**

Behavioural expectations of students, staff and families are grounded in our school’s Statement of Values and *Safe & Happy Book.* Restorative Practices are implemented as a whole school approach at Roberts McCubbin Primary School to positively support student behaviour.

*Bullying and harassment -*Roberts McCubbin Primary School provides a positive culture where bullying is not accepted, and all students have the right of respect from others, the right to learn or to teach, and a right to feel safe and secure in the school environment. Student bullying behaviour will be responded to consistently with School’s Bullying Policy and *Safe & Happy Book*. Where appropriate, parents will be informed about inappropriate behaviour and consequences to be put in place by teachers and other school staff.

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

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

**Engaging with Families**

Roberts McCubbin 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, supported by our Communicating 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.

**Further information and resources**

* Statement of Values and School Philosophy
* *Safe & Happy Book*
* Bullying Prevention Policy
* Child Safe Standards
* Duty of Care Policy
* Statement of Commitment to Child Safety
* Bullying and Harassment Policy and Procedures
* Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy (including Mandatory Reporting)
* School Camps and Excursion Policy

**Review Cycle**

This policy was last updated and ratified in September 2018 and is scheduled to be reviewed in 2022