



Student Wellbeing Policy

Rationale

St John's Catholic Parish Primary School holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel. (ref [CEVC Commitment Statement to Child Safety](#))

At St John's we aim to build a positive school environment where each child feels safe, supported, valued and happy. We believe our students' social, emotional, moral, spiritual and physical wellbeing is inextricably linked to their learning success. Student wellbeing is the concern and responsibility of the total school community, working in partnership together.

Our whole school approach to Student Wellbeing emphasises:

- Prevention – building structures that facilitate belonging and promote wellbeing
- Early intervention – programming and planning interventions that target students identified as 'at risk'.
- Intervention - supporting students through the facilitation of and access to a range of support services for identified 'at risk' students.
- Postvention – managing 'out of the ordinary' circumstances that require specialist support, management of trauma, limiting impact and restoring relationships

Vision Statement

At St John's, in accordance with the Gospel values, we will embed a culture that is inclusive of all. By building positive relationships and strong family-school partnerships, we will help equip our students with the skills and strategies to meet life's challenges and to contribute empathetically and productively to a global society.



Aims

- To foster a culture of positive and respectful relationships in which all staff assume responsibility for the wellbeing of students
- To provide a safe, caring and supportive learning environment, which ensures that the experience of social, emotional and academic learning is positive for all students.
- To develop policies and implement programs that are both, proactive and oriented towards prevention, intervention and restoring wellbeing.
- To develop a holistic and coordinated approach to social and emotional learning using a variety of strategies.
- To provide appropriate professional learning for all staff so that they are skilled and proactive in the management of student wellbeing issues.
- To foster an active and mutually respectful learning partnership between teachers, students and parents/carers which allows for open and honest communication
- To encourage children to develop self-discipline and to take responsibility for their own actions.
- To reinforce positive behaviour and develop self esteem.
- To ensure that students, staff and parents clearly understand the school's expectations for student behaviour.
- To establish a set of procedures that will consistently be followed across the school for dealing with inappropriate behaviour.
- To create strong partnerships with the wider community

Implementation

BeYou

- St John's is a BeYou School (formally KidsMatter) school. This means that Student Wellbeing is addressed through the implementation of the BeYou (formally Kidsmatter) Framework which focuses on creating a positive school community that supports the mental health and wellbeing of every school member. We use the comprehensive framework, professional learning and support, provided by BeYou, to undertake planning and action around four core components, each with specific evidence-based Target Areas and Goals. The components are interrelated and work together to support student mental health and wellbeing.



The four components of the KidsMatter Framework are:

1. Building a positive school community
2. Social and emotional learning for students
3. Working with parents and carers
4. Helping children with mental health difficulties

Child Safety

[Child Safety Policy](#)

[Child Protection – Reporting Obligations](#)

Behaviour Management

- At St John's we take every opportunity to acknowledge and encourage positive relationships between all members of our community. Positive behaviour and good decision making in students is affirmed and encouraged through everyday interactions as well as actions such as certificates at assembly, showcasing displays of children's work, affirmation from classroom teachers and other staff members and recognition from the principal.
- Our [Behaviour Management Policy](#) (reviewed and revised in 2019) is based on the understanding that all students have rights and subsequent responsibilities that contribute to creating a harmonious learning environment. We believe that every student has the right: to be happy, to feel safe and to learn.
- [Anti-Bullying Policy](#) Staff, parents and students must have a clear understanding that bullying is the repeated intimidation by a person who believes they are more powerful than another. All students are encouraged to report to a staff member, parent or trusted friend any situation that makes them feel unsafe or unhappy. Whenever an incident of bullying behavior is reported to staff the procedure outlined in the policy is to be implemented.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

- SEL is the process through which we learn to recognise and manage emotions, care about others, make good decisions, behave ethically and responsibly, develop positive relationships, and avoid negative behaviours (Elias et al. 1997).
- At St John's we believe that SEL should be a whole school approach, integrated into school culture through daily interactions, embedded in the



curriculum and developed in partnership with families.

SEL strategies include:

- Class anchor charts developed each year about the 'Learning Powers' of Self Management and Collaboration to develop age appropriate success criteria for these skills (ref Kath Murdoch, Power of Inquiry Ch 6 Learning Assets)
- The development of 'split screen' learning intentions where the focus is on a learning power as well as the content/skill being taught in a particular lesson.
- Fortnightly lessons which include the explicit teaching of SEL skills using the [Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships program](#) (DET)
- Classroom Circle Time

Supporting Students with Additional Needs - [Learning Diversity Policy](#)

- At St John's the Student Services Leader along with the Student Services Team assist teachers and parents with any concerns that may arise in relation to a student's development and wellbeing.
- **School referral process:** Students have access to services provided by the Catholic Education Melbourne. Such services include Speech Pathology, Psychological assessments and Educational assessments.
- **Program Support Groups:** A co-ordinated and systematic structure that operates within the school for students on Integration funding. They provide a positive, inclusive partnership with parents in supporting the student.
- **Seasons Program:** Seasons is a peer support program that is designed to assist children in coping with the grief that is experienced through death or family breakdown. The program is usually run twice a year depending on the need. St John's has a number of staff who are trained facilitators for this program.
- **Student Counselling:** A counselling service is available at the school. A qualified psychologist attends one day a week. Through this service, students and families are assisted to work through personal issues which cover a wide spectrum. Referrals are made through the class teacher, Student Support Leader or Principal.

Transition - [Transition Policy](#)

- St John's provides a comprehensive transition program that reflects a continuous learning approach. We believe the support offered to children by families and schools at these important times will determine whether they



remain engaged and connected to school and ultimately have a successful educational experience.

Better Buddies/Values Education

- The Alannah and Madeline Foundation's Better Buddies Framework is an initiative designed to create friendly and caring primary school communities where bullying is reduced.
- Through the Better Buddies program, students in Prep and Year 6 are buddied up and participate in activities which support the Prep students' transition into our school
- Senior student buddies are provided with training on how to be a good senior buddy during their final weeks of Year 5 in readiness for the following year.
- Every term the whole school participates in a Better Buddies Key Event. These key events provide an opportunity for all students to build positive relationships across the school, enhancing their sense of belonging and connectedness. The students are placed in multi-aged groups and participate in activities that highlight our school faith based values. These values are: Caring for Others, Friendliness, Respect, Valuing Difference, Including Others and Responsibility.
- These faith based values are also highlighted through our Religious Education program, formal and informal classroom activities and in daily interactions.
- All classes have a Better Buddies purple mascot Buddy Bear. These bears are visible in the classrooms all year and used to help remind students that the messages of Better Buddies Day are continued in everyday school life.

Student Voice and Participation

- At St John's we value and promote student voice, participation and engagement in all aspects of school and community life. Students are encouraged to take on various leadership roles and are supported to develop student led initiatives. Student voice and participation is promoted through:
- [Inquiry Based Learning](#)
- [Student Leadership Program](#)
- Student Action Teams in Faith & Social Justice, KidsMatter, Sustainability, FIRE Carriers, The Arts, eSmart
- Classroom meetings/Circle Time
- Social Justice initiatives



- Lunchtime clubs

Family-School Partnerships

The family-school partnership is greatly valued at St John's as a positive influence on a student's success at school. Opportunities for parents to participate include:

- Classroom support
- Weekly assemblies
- Learning Expos
- Excursions
- As 'guest speakers'
- Parent information nights
- School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Partners in Community (PIC)
- PIC activities
- Grandparents Day
- Carols by Candlelight