



CHILD EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

CHILD SAFE STANDARD 7: STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE CHILD EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION at Dookie Primary School

Child Safe Standard 7 (Standard 7) requires schools to develop strategies to deliver appropriate education about:

- Standards of behaviour for students attending the school;
- Healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality);
- Resilience; and
- Child abuse awareness and prevention.

Ministerial Order 870 also requires schools to promote the Child Safe Standards in ways that are readily accessible, easy to understand, and user-friendly to children.

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING DOOKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Every government school must have a Student Engagement Policy which provides the basis on which they can develop and maintain safe, supportive and inclusive school environments.

As part of this, Student Engagement Policies should also articulate the expectations and aspirations of the school community in relation to student engagement, including strategies to address bullying, school attendance and behaviour.

A school's policy should be developed in consultation with the wider school community including school leaders, teachers, students and parents.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/policydev.aspx>

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM – Semester based – weekly.

Program is designed and based on

Building Resilience: A Model to Support Children and Young People. This is an evidence-based approach to developing social and emotional learning skills and enhancing resilience. It recommends taking a multi-dimensional, school-wide approach to supporting resilience and engagement, which has a positive impact on social and academic outcomes.

HEALTHY AND RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS (INCLUDING SEXUALITY)

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

The school utilises the expertise of external agencies (such as Gateway health and Shepparton Community Health, as well as Life Education) to deliver Respectful Relationships Education to students.

HEALTH EDUCATION POLICIES

School councils must develop health education policies to support the health messages being delivered within the classroom and with school community input: students, parents and teachers. All school staff must:

- Be conscious of issues related to the disclosure of personal information
- Give careful consideration prior to approval of collection of sensitive information
- Not promote their own personal preferences
- Select health education materials with care.

MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION is included in the school's Social and Emotional Learning program delivered to all students.

All health education learning and teaching programs should aim to build student resilience and peer support practices to promote a student's ability to look after oneself, recognise and be aware of one's needs in others, and awareness of appropriate supports in school and in the community. Promoting Healthy Minds for Living and Learning web page provides materials to support school staff create environments conducive to mental health. <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/health/Pages/earlychildhood.aspx>

eSmart

Dookie Primary school is working towards becoming an eSmart school. The school annually teaches and reviews curriculum and policy documents in line with eSmart school guidelines.

School Newsletter.

The newsletter is available online at the school website and is displayed at school and in the community. It is a useful tool for **promoting child empowerment and participation**.

Other resources that can be accessed

KIDSMATTER

KidsMatter Primary provides the methods, tools and support to help schools work with parents and carers, health services and the wider community, to nurture happy, balanced kids.

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

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