



STUDENT WELFARE

POLICY

Whilst this policy is aimed at providing support generally for “Students at Risk”, implicit in it, is the inclusion of approaches to deal with issues relating to all heightened situations. Guidelines for this policy will be consistent with curriculum and welfare issues expressed in the DEECD Reference guide.

Beliefs

Promote a healthy supportive and secure environment for students, with targeted support for students at risk.

- Student welfare is a shared responsibility between school, home and the community.
- School should be a positive environment in which all teachers assume responsibility for student welfare and each student is provided with success experiences.
- All students shall have access to welfare and support services.
- Clear, well known communication processes and protocols are critical to the effectiveness of student welfare support.

Guidelines:

1. Parents, staff and relevant community members will be consulted in the development and regular review of this policy.
2. The Principal shall be responsible for the coordination and implementation of this policy.
3. The school shall implement welfare support structures and programs which prioritise and address the identified needs of students.

The stages at which support may be provided are:

(a) Primary Prevention: programs which develop resilience, through enhanced life skills protective factors.

(b) Early Intervention: strategies and processes which, assess and manage individuals and groups identified as high risk.

(c) Intervention: provision of crises support for individuals with clear suicide behaviours.

(d) Post Prevention: implement a critical incident response plan eg for suicide. This plan shall be reviewed annually and include responsibilities of coordinating personnel and other staff; flow chart communication links; protocols and procedures for contacting and dealing with outside agencies; debriefing arrangements for affected personnel; and plan review arrangements.

Protocols should designate stages where it is necessary to respect the confidential nature of dealing with student welfare issues.

4. Welfare programs and student service provision will be supported by funding and where possible time release for teachers to enable:
 - employment of services to conduct support programs which focus on addressing student welfare issues.
 - Individual and group student counselling
 - Skill development for students, teachers and parents.Funds provided through the Department of Education's "Student Services" allocation shall be expended according to guidelines published in DEECD, NEVR "Student Support Services Model "Information.
5. Where a decision needs to be made regarding the appropriate nature of curriculum content for the teaching and learning of issues which may relate to "student at risk behaviours" it shall be referred to the (group or committee). The committee will forward its recommendation to the principal for a final decision. (Note: There is considerable evidence to recommend that Youth Suicide is not taught in schools as a means of addressing at risk behaviour.)
6. For school based care management of known students, a structure shall provide for continuity of care through a process of coordination with other agencies, transfer to other schools and transition.

Basis of Discretion:

In the event of this policy being unable to be adhered to, the Principal may use his / her discretion but ensuring that the guidelines for DEECD "Student Support Services, NEVR - are strictly followed.