

Student Welfare - Policy Statement

Introduction:

Students are better prepared for learning when they are healthy, safe and happy. At Shepparton ACE Secondary College student learning cannot be separated from welfare. Students develop best when teaching and learning occur in a context of student welfare. Student welfare is enhanced when all members of the school community participate in the learning programs and the life of the school.

Context:

Student welfare at Shepparton ACE Secondary College:

- encompasses everything the school community does to meet the personal, social and learning needs of the students
- creates a safe, caring school environment in which the students are nurtured as they learn
- is achieved through the total school curriculum and the way it is delivered
- incorporates effective discipline
- incorporates preventative health and social skills programs
- stresses the value of collaborative early intervention when problems are identified
- provides ongoing educational services to support students
- recognises the diversity within the school community and provides programs and support which acknowledge difference and promote harmony
- recognises the role the school plays as a resource to link families to community support services
- provides access and equity to students with special needs
- provide opportunities for student to:
 - enjoy success and recognition
 - make a useful contribution to the life of the school
 - derive enjoyment from their learning

Shepparton ACE Secondary College aims to provide effective learning and teaching in a secure, well managed environment, in partnership with parents and care givers and the wider school community.

The objectives and outcomes that follow relate to:

- effective teaching and learning
- positive climate
- community participation

Students with special needs

Shepparton ACE Secondary College complies with the Disability Standards for Education 2005 and ensures that students with disabilities are able to participate in education and training on the same basis as students without disabilities.

The process includes:

- an LLN assessment and consideration of whether an adjustment is necessary
- consultation with the student regarding the nature of disability
- identification of a reasonable adjustment
- making the reasonable adjustment.

Students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, gender diverse or intersex

Shepparton ACE Secondary College understands and respects the needs of this student population. Shepparton ACE Secondary College's welfare approach will support this by undertaking the following:

- providing a positive, supportive, and respectful environment
- respecting privacy and confidentiality in relation to all students
- supporting students who want to affirm or transition gender identity at school
- challenging all forms of homophobia and transphobia to prevent discrimination and bullying

- giving proper consideration to the impact of any requirement to participate in school activities according to gender identity or an assumption of heterosexuality (for example, school formals, sports activities, camps)
- inviting the young person and a family representative/carer to be part of the formulation of a school welfare plan if required.

Cultural safety for aboriginal children

Shepparton ACE Secondary College understands and respects the needs of the first nations population. Shepparton ACE Secondary College will support the cultural safety and needs of this population by maintaining close contacts with the elders in the community and by providing training to school staff about cultural safety to support student welfare.

Effective Teaching and Learning:

The objectives of effective teaching and learning at Shepparton ACE Secondary College include:

- encouraging students to take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour
- identifying and catering for the individual learning needs of students
- establishing well managed teaching and learning environments
- ensuring that learning activities build on prior knowledge and experiences and are socially and culturally relevant
- providing frequent opportunities for students and their parents to discuss learning programs and student behaviour and progress.
- identifying key social skills and developing plans for all students to acquire them, or make progress towards them over time
- ensuring that gender and equity issues are recognised and addressed across the curriculum.

These objectives are aimed at producing the following outcomes

- Students will be active participants in the learning process
- Coordinated student services will provide effective support to classroom programs
- The learning experience of students will affirm their individuality and be positive and satisfying
- Students will participate in decisions about their own learning

- Students will pursue a program of learning relevant to their needs and aspirations
- Students will develop an understanding of themselves as well as skills for positive socially responsible participation
- Students will develop competencies which enhance the quality of their relationships with others
- Students will feel valued as learners

Positive Climate:

At Shepparton ACE Secondary College, school climate is enhanced by

- maximising student participation in decision making and ensuring the principles of equity and fairness are reflected in school practice
- providing opportunities for students to demonstrate success in a wide range of activities
- developing and implementing policies and procedures to protect the rights, safety and health of all members of the school community
- establishing clear school rules which are known and understood by all members of the school community
- monitoring attendance and ensuring students attend school regularly
- valuing and providing opportunities for all students to develop skills involved in positive relationships, social responsibility, problem solving and dispute resolution
- valuing differences and discouraging narrow and limiting stereotypes
- incorporating student views into planning relating to school climate and organisation
- establishing networks to support students and making sure that students and parents know about and have ready access to this support
- recognising the relationship between student and staff welfare and ensuring that staff welfare is also a priority
- providing opportunities for students to gain leadership experience using a range of mechanisms including running student forums and representation on School Council

These objectives are aimed at producing the following outcomes and results

The well-being, safety and health of students and other community members will be priorities in all school policies, programs, and practices

- Principles of equity and justice will be evident in school plans, programs and procedures
- The student conduct of Shepparton ACE Secondary College will provide clear guidelines for behaviour which are known by staff, students and parents
- Shepparton ACE Secondary College will be an ordered and cohesive community where individuals take responsibility and work together
- Shepparton ACE Secondary College will be an inclusive environment which affirms diversity and respects difference
- Students will be safe in the school environment
- Students will know what is expected of them and others in the school community
- Students will be able to learn without disruption for unruly behaviour
- Students will be provided with appropriate support programs
- Students will contribute to the decision making at Shepparton ACE Secondary College
- Students will participate in all aspects of school life as equals
- Students will be valued and supported in all aspects of their learning
- Students will know and understand their school's organisation and know about student representation on committees

Community Participation:

At Shepparton ACE Secondary College participation is enhanced by:

- Building learning communities in which staff, students and parents work together for planned results
- encouraging parents and community members to participate actively in the education of young people and the life of the school
- acknowledging parents as partners in education
- encouraging students to have a sense of belonging to the school community
- assisting families to gain access to support services in the community
- fostering close links with the wider community

- inviting parents to share their ~~skills and experiences~~ *skills and experiences* with the school community
- supporting students and their parents in making decisions about learning programs

These objectives are aimed at producing the following results:

- There will be strong links between students, staff and other members of the school community
- Parents and community members will participate in the education of young people and share the responsibility of shaping appropriate student behaviour
- The curriculum, plans and action of Shepparton ACE Secondary College will reflect the needs and aspirations of students and the wider community
- Students, parents and teachers will perceive the learning programs of Shepparton ACE Secondary College are relevant and beneficial
- Staff will facilitate parents and community participation in a range of school activities
- Students will value Shepparton Coogee as an integral part of the community
- Students and their families will know how to access relevant support services in the community

Responsibilities:

Principal

The Principal will ensure that:

- a commitment to student welfare underpins all the policies and activities at Shepparton ACE Secondary College
- The school community reviews policies and practices relation to student welfare
- Student welfare is regularly reviewed using appropriate planning processes
- A student Conduct policy is developed and reviewed regularly
- The review process takes into account other mandatory policies
- Strategic issues are identified and reviews are incorporated into the school plan
- Students, staff and parents are assisted in developing strategies for addressing students welfare needs in all activities of the school
- Other policies and practices at Shepparton ACE Secondary College are regularly reviewed to ensure that they meet the needs of all students in the school

Staff

Teaching and support staff, according to their role will:

- Ensure they are familiar with the Student Welfare Policy and the Student Code of Conduct Policy
- Contribute to the provision of a caring, well managed, safe environment for all students, fellow staff and parents
- Participate in the learning and teaching process in ways which take into account the objectives of this policy
- Participate in the school community's implementation of the Student Welfare Policy

Staff with a specific student support role will ensure that the school develops effective mechanism for integrating behaviour management, conflict resolution and support for students experiencing difficulties.

Students

Students will be encouraged to:

- Act according to the Student Code of Conduct
- Contribute to the provision of a caring, safe environment for fellow students, staff and parents
- Participate actively in the learning and teaching process
- Provide their views on school community decisions, including reviews of student welfare.
- Practice peaceful resolution of conflict

Parents

Parents will be encouraged to:

- Participate in the learning of their children and the life of the school, including reviews of students welfare and conduct policy
- Share responsibility for shaping their children's understanding about acceptable behaviour
- Work with teachers to establish fair and reasonable expectations of the school

Related Policies

- Student Conduct Policy
- Student Learning Agreement
- Mandatory Reporting
- Medications
- First Aid
- Anaphylaxis Management
- Child Safe Policy
- Duty of Care – Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)

Links

- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
- Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)

Community Resources

The Bridge	03 5831 2390
Brayton Youth Services	03 5823 9500
Education First Youth Foyer	03 5822 8100
Headspace	03 5823 8800
Primary Care Connect	03 5823 3200
Rural Housing	03 5833 1000
Uniting Care Kildonan	03 5831 6157

REVIEW

This Welfare Policy will be reviewed annually

Date	Version No.	Change	Author(s)
2016	1.0	Issue	Irene James
February 2020	1.1	Update for VRQA School Review	Joel Hoffman Irene James
August 2022	2.0	Update for legalisation	Joel Hoffman