Student Engagement Policy

Rationale

Cavendish Primary School (established 1852), is situated near the banks of the Wannon River in proximity to the Grampians. Our idyllic rural setting presents a safe learning environment where a comprehensive curriculum supports the values of a positive work ethos, self-discipline, cooperation, pride, respect and a strong sense of community.

AIMS:

This school has a commitment to developing children educationally, emotionally, socially and behaviourally to ensure that students attend school and are engaged in their learning. We do this in the following way:

Implementation

- We support programs that develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes of students to their maximum potential.
- We provide a friendly, safe, cooperative and well-resourced school environment.
- We respect the rights of others.
- We extoll the values of a tradition of excellence.
- We extend our links to the community and value their input into the student's education.
- Students are provided with support by highly trained personnel if necessary.
- Cultural activities, personal development, health promotion and harm prevention programs are conducted to support the whole child.
- We provide a proactive, inclusive, and stimulating environment where all members of the school community are valued, are treated with dignity and respect according to the strengths they bring and where each person receives support according to individual need.
- We value and encourage student individuality, differences and diversity.
- We endeavour to build each child's resilience through class lessons and programs.

The following strategies have been implemented to ensure our students maximize their opportunities to highlight particular talents. This is done in the following way:

- We have developed a whole school approach to Restorative Practices
- The Junior School Council provides student leadership to our school
- Training for School Council members is provided to keep parent members up to date with school council procedures and policies that support student welfare and learning.
- We promote strong values through classroom interaction and assemblies.
- The Active After Schools program supports the child's social and physical needs
- The Buddy System develops and supports and mentors the relationships of the older students with the younger ones.
- We encourage Sport as a means of looking after the welfare and wellbeing of our students.
- Count Down to Christmas celebrates our caring culture.
- School support workers are utilised to support the wellbeing and welfare of the students.

- Students are given the opportunity to attend a range of camps during their time at Cavendish.
- A range of musical, sporting and art activities are provided for all students
- The school supports a culture of positive reinforcement and encouragement throughout all facets of school life.

Discipline

Disciplinary measures may be used as part of a staged response to challenging behaviour in combination with other engagement and support strategies to address the range of factors that may have contributed to the student's behaviour.

Disciplinary measures that may be applied include:

- Restorative approach (e.g. repairing damage caused)
- Implementation of a Behavioural Management Plan
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Withdrawal from class activities for a specified period. Where appropriate, parents/carers will be informed of such withdrawals
- Detention
- Suspension (in-school and out of school)
- Expulsion

Discipline will be applied in a way that is proportionate to the behaviour and upholds procedural fairness.

Corporal Punishment is prohibited in all Victorian schools. Corporal punishment must NOT be used at the School under any circumstances.

Suspension and expulsion are measures of last resort and may only be applied when the grounds for suspension and expulsion set out in the Engagement and Inclusion Guidance have been met.

Suspension and expulsion can only be approved by the principal and our school will follow the processes for applying these disciplinary measures set out in the Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidance.

Information on grounds and processes for suspension and expulsion that our school will follow are available here: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/discipline.aspx

Monitoring of Engagement

Year 5 and 6 students complete the Attitudes to School Survey each year. Results are analysed by staff and acted upon where necessary.

Attendance rates are reviewed and where necessary action may be taken. The school follows the "It is not okay to be away" campaign.

Student Wellbeing and Student Welfare policies at the school support these strategies.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....	**October 2019**

Cavendish Primary School is committed to Child Safety – We have a zero tolerance for child abuse.