

Cann River P-12 College

STUDENT WELLBEING AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY



PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students and members of our school community understand:

- (a) our commitment to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for students
- (b) expectations for positive student behaviour
- (c) support available to students and families
- (d) our school's policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour.

Cann River P/12 College is committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment for all students. We understand that students reach their full potential only when they are happy, healthy and safe. A positive school culture helps to engage students and support them in their learning. Our school acknowledges that student wellbeing and student learning outcomes are closely linked.

The objective of this policy is to support our school to create and maintain a safe, supportive and inclusive school environment consistent with our school's values.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions.

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POLICY

1. School profile

Cann River is situated 450 kilometres from Melbourne in Far East Gippsland, near Croajingolong and Coopracambra National Parks. The town has about 150 residents: the area also includes Noorinbee and Club Terrace.

The Cann River P/12 College has a strong sense of developing students as individuals and providing them with opportunities and pathways. The curriculum is tailored to student's needs: students enjoy a high degree of individual attention. There is a whole-school approach to developing social skills based on the Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support Model. (PBIS)

The school has excellent facilities: a new Prep/1 room, refurbished library, and three new playgrounds, including fitness stations for secondary students. There is a professional kitchen and a VET Auto workshop. All students in the school have access to a notebook computer. The School has a bus and a car. The school has spacious grounds and is situated in a beautiful rural setting.

The College in 2021 caters for a population of 48 students from Prep to Year 12. Class groupings in 2021 for students are Grade P/1, Grade 2/3/4, Grade 5/6, Year 7/8, Year 9/10 and VCE. The College offers a broad, flexible and inclusive curriculum, including VCE and VET programs. There are opportunities for Year 10 students to undertake VCE and VET units. In 2021, seven students are studying at least one of eleven possible VCE subjects. The school population can be relatively transient. Most students that attend our school live locally and tend to walk or ride their bike to school or catch the bus from the Noorinbee and Club Terrace areas.

There are limited future employment options for students in the immediate area, so transition beyond school is a focus. All students experience a wide range of learning experiences both in and out of the community: excursions include urban excursions, outdoor education camps, interschool sport, careers expos, work experience, year level camps, and VCE studies.

Extra school programs include: after school activities (with student leaders), breakfast club, community sports, the annual school production, interschool billy-cart competition, successful entry to many art competitions, parent community barbeques, Book week activities, and weekly VCE study nights. 'Jinga', the school community newsletter, is published fortnightly.

A significant focus is professional development with a teamwork-based approach: professional learning teams work to develop and enhance their teaching approaches. This is closely linked to teacher evaluation and is focused on the FISO and a Performance and Development Culture.

The school is very well resourced with staff for its size, with a teacher in each specialist area: support staff are used to support student learning at all year levels. We have visiting specialists to support students, such as speech pathologists, student counsellors, and student psychologists.

Our school is strongly supported by its community.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

Our school aims to be a safe and happy learning community where students are engaged to achieve their personal best in a caring environment of respect and cooperation.

Our Values:

We aim for each child to be:

- Confident, happy and positive
- Considerate and respectful of others, locally and globally
- Skilled and knowledgeable for success in the world

We aim for the school to be:

- Respectful of differences
- Inclusive
- Positive – the acknowledgment of achievement
- Encouraging high expectations
- Nurturing and safe
- Connected to the community

We value:

- Skills and knowledge
- Relationships - respect
- Community

Our Expectations are:

- Respect Self
- Respect Others
- Respect the School Environment

3. Engagement strategies

Cann River P/12 College has developed a range of strategies to promote engagement, positive behaviour and respect for all students in our school. We acknowledge that some students may need extra social, emotional or educational support at school and that the needs of students will change over time as they grow and learn.

A summary of the universal (whole of school), targeted (year group-specific), and individual engagement strategies used by our school is included below:

Strategies

- consistent use of PBIS strategies across the whole school
- prioritise positive relationships between staff and students, recognising the fundamental role this plays in building and sustaining student wellbeing
- creating a culture that is inclusive, engaging and supportive
- welcoming all parents/carers and being responsive to them as partners in learning
- analysing and being responsive to a range of school data such as attendance, Attitudes to School Survey, parent survey data, student management data and school-level assessment data

- deliver a broad curriculum including VET programs and VCE to ensure that students can choose subjects and programs that are tailored to their interests, strengths and aspirations
- teachers at Cann River P/12 College are engaged in utilising school-wide literacy strategies to ensure an explicit, common and shared model of instruction to ensure that evidenced-based, high yield teaching practices are incorporated into all lessons
- teachers at Cann River P/12 College school adopt a broad range of teaching and assessment approaches to effectively respond to the diverse learning styles, strengths and needs of our students and follow the standards set by the Victorian Institute of Teaching
- our school's Statement of Values are incorporated into our curriculum and promoted to students, staff and parents so that they are shared and celebrated as the foundation of our school community
- transition programs to support students moving into different stages of their schooling
- positive behaviour and student achievement is acknowledged in the classroom, and formally in school assemblies and communication to parents
- monitor student attendance and implement attendance improvement strategies at a whole-school, cohort and individual level
- Students have the opportunity to contribute to and provide feedback through the Student Representative Council and other forums, including year group meetings. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Year Level Coordinator, Leading Teacher and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- create opportunities for cross-age connections amongst students through school plays, community sport and Active After School Activities
- All students are welcome to seek help from all staff at Cann River P/12 College. All students are helped if they need additional support through the school counsellor or school psychologist.
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, clubs, recess and lunchtime activities)
- buddy programs
- each year group has a Form Group Teacher/Coordinator responsible for their year, who monitor the health and wellbeing of students in their year and act as a point of contact for students who may need additional support
- all students from Year 10 and above will be assisted to develop a Career Action Plan with targeted goals and help to plan for their future
- the school assists students to plan their Year 10 work experience, supported by their Career Action Plan
- All students have an Individual Learning Plan, including a Behaviour Support Plan. This is frequently updated in staff meetings and wellbeing meetings.
- Where necessary, the school will support the student's family to engage by:
- being responsive and sensitive to changes in the student's circumstances and health and wellbeing

- collaborating, where appropriate, with the support of the student and their family, with any external allied health professionals, services or agencies that are supporting the student
- monitoring individual student attendance and developing an Attendance Improvement Plan in collaboration with the student and their family

4. Identifying students in need of support

Cann River P/12 College is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. The Staff and Student Wellbeing team play a significant role in developing and implementing strategies to help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Cann River P/12 College will utilise the following information and tools to identify students in need of extra emotional, social or educational support:

- Every morning during staff briefing, there is a sharing of students' success from the previous day and any concerns about students for the day
- personal, health and learning information gathered upon enrolment and while the student is enrolled
- attendance records
- academic performance
- observations by school staff such as changes in engagement, behaviour, self-care, social connectedness and motivation
- engagement with families
- self-referrals or referrals from peers
- referrals to other Student Support Services

5. Student Rights and Responsibilities

All members of our school community have a right to experience a safe and supportive school environment. We expect that all students, staff, parents and carers treat each other with respect and dignity. Our school's Statement of Values highlights the rights and responsibilities of members of our community.

Students have the right to:

- participate fully in their education
- feel safe, secure and happy at school
- learn in an environment free from bullying, harassment, violence, discrimination or intimidation
- Express their ideas, feelings and concerns.

Students have the responsibility to:

- participate fully in their educational program
- display positive behaviours that demonstrate respect for themselves, their peers, their teachers and members of the school community
- Respect the right of others to learn.

Students who may have a complaint or concern about something that has happened at school are encouraged to speak to their parents or carers and approach a trusted teacher or a member of the school leadership team.

6. Student behavioural expectations and management

Cann River P/12 uses PBIS strategies when approaching student behaviour. It is a whole school process, and if needed, behaviour incidents are recorded. Class-wide strategies are implemented to help students modify their behaviour.

Our school considers, explores, and implement positive and non-punitive interventions to support student behaviour before considering disciplinary measures such as detention, withdrawal of privileges or withdrawal from class. *Disciplinary measures that may be applied include:*

- *warning a student that their behaviour is inappropriate*
- *teacher controlled consequences such as moving a student in a classroom or other reasonable and proportionate responses to misbehaviour*
- *withdrawal of privileges*
- *referral to the Year Level Coordinator*
- *restorative practices*
- *detentions*
- *behaviour support and intervention meetings*
- *suspension*
- *expulsion*

Suspension, expulsion and restrictive interventions are measures of last resort and may only be used in situations consistent with Department policy, available at:

- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/suspensions/policy>
- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/expulsions/policy>
- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/restraint-seclusion/policy>

In line with Ministerial Order 1125, no student aged 8 or younger will be expelled without the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Education and Training. The school is committed to following the DET guidance on Restraint and seclusion.

The Principal of Cann River P/12 College is responsible for ensuring all suspensions and expulsions are recorded on CASES21.

Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school and will not be used in any circumstance. This school prohibits corporal punishment.

7. Engaging with families

The school values the input of parents and carers, and we will strive to support families to engage in their child's learning and build their capacity as active learners. We aim to be partners in learning with parents and carers in our school community.

We work hard to create successful partnerships with parents and carers by:

- maintaining open, respectful lines of communication between parents and staff

- involving families with homework and other curriculum-related activities
- coordinating resources and services from the community for families
- including families in Student Support Groups and developing individual plans for students.
- Welcoming parents to parent-teacher interviews and school events such as sports, mother's and father's Day activities.

8. Evaluation

Cann River P/12 College will continue to analyse well-being issues experienced by our students to measure the success or otherwise of our strategies and identify emerging trends or needs.

Sources of data that will be assessed can include:

- Every morning during staff briefing, there is a sharing of students' success from the previous day. Any concerns about students for the day notes are taken every morning about these students.
- student survey data
- incidents data
- school reports
- parent survey
- staff group reflections on the whole student list
- case management
- CASES21, including attendance and absence data
- SOCS

Our school will also ensure it follows the mandatory parent/carer notification requirements with respect to suspensions and expulsions outlined in the Department's policies if such a situation arises.

This policy will be made available on the school website and at the General office.

Policy revised June 7th 2021

Reviewed by staff 22/06/2021 Next review 2024

Consultation with school council 5/4/22