



# Flowerdale Primary School

## Small Schools Are Great Schools

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY

### SCHOOL PROFILE

Flowerdale Primary School, with its unique design, is a small country school, which nestles in the hills eighty kilometres northeast of Melbourne. Children travel to school by bus or commute from an area nine kilometres south of the school as well as from the more rural north.

The Flowerdale School Community is committed to providing a happy and secure environment in order for all students to reach their maximum potential. Literacy and Numeracy are the school's highest priority, and form the basis of the school curriculum. There is also a major emphasis on technology and the development of computer skills, as well as the development of interpersonal skills in our students. Within the school, systems exist to develop cooperation, teamwork and responsible attitudes. All staff are experienced, committed and caring. They are regularly involved in professional development to maintain high levels of skill and qualifications.

The well designed Flowerdale Education and Early Learning Centre provides a strong link between Maternal Health, the Flowerdale Kindergarten, Flowerdale Primary School and the community. This enables many transition activities throughout the entire year. The Primary School is completed with Multi-Purpose Room, three furnished classrooms, meeting rooms and kitchen.

Attractive native and cottage gardens complement this feeling. A variety of well-maintained areas such as the basketball court, oval, cubby house, adventure playground and sandpit allow for diversification of play and harmony. With the enthusiastic assistance of volunteers, both financial and physical, the school grounds are cared for. Through consultation with the students, grounds work continually enhances the environment for the benefit of both wildlife and the children.

In the wider community, facilities used include the Flowerdale Hall, Flowerdale Community House and the Spring Valley Recreation Reserve. Combined activities are often held with other schools in the Murrindindi Cluster. The school supports, and in return enjoys the valued support of the CFA, Community House and local sports clubs. The PFA and School Council organise fundraising opportunities for the school.

Flowerdale Primary School thus plays a major role in fostering a broad community spirit as well as nurturing and teaching the children of that community.

In February 2009 the Flowerdale community was devastated by the "Black Saturday" bushfires. Although the school buildings were relatively undamaged, the town was almost totally destroyed with 210 of 280 homes completely burnt down and a further 50 were fire

affected. The ongoing effects of student wellbeing, declining enrolments and home related stresses have impacted significantly on the school community.

### **School Values**

The Flowerdale Primary School community has an agreed set of five school values. These are:

- Team Work
- Bouncing Back
- Respect
- Personal best
- Compassion

The values are an important part of our school culture and are expected to be upheld by students, staff and parents. Classroom teachers ensure that students have an appreciation of our school values and understand their importance. The school values underpin everything that we do and learn. In particular, we hope that the introduction of excellence as one of our school values will ensure that our students aspire to excellence in both their academic, interpersonal behaviour and personal learning experiences.

### **Whole School Prevention Statement**

Student Welfare is a shared responsibility between school, home and the community.

The school principal will coordinate student welfare across the school. Staff will approach the Principal (who will consult with the Welfare Officer) with concerns they have about individual children.

The school will implement welfare support structures and programs which prioritise and address the identified needs of individual students and the school as a whole and that help implement the aims of this policy.

The school will implement and maintain programs such as: -

- Student Achievement Awards
- Personal Development (School Nurse)
- Student Representative Council (S.R.C)
- Committing to a whole school program of restorative practice to develop resilience, social skills, conflict resolution and problem solving
- Transition between Kindergarten and High School
- Active After School Sport
- Extra Curricula activities such as tennis coaching

The school will:

- Monitor and respond to protracted student absences.
- Follow protocols for Mandatory Reporting.
- Establish student support groups where necessary.
- Implement Student Safety needs as defined in the 'Attitude to School Survey'

The school will as required, access outside services to provide support for students and staff which include: -

- Psychologists for psychological and academic assessment
- Counsellors – providing support for 'at risk' children
- Department of Human Services case managers and support workers

- Social Workers to provide services such as counselling, social skills and anger management programs
- Youth agencies
- Local parent support groups
- Relevant DEECD support staff
- School Nurse

Our school will comply with all privacy issues in accordance with current legislation and departmental requirements – see separate Privacy policy.

### **Development of Emotional Intelligence**

All students will be supported to develop emotional intelligence in consultation with parents, classroom teachers, support workers (if relevant) and the Principal.

All staff will reinforce and support behavioural expectations and consequences. Consistency will be maintained across the school.

### **Equity**

Flowerdale Primary School is strongly committed to achieving equity. Equity means we provide the resources that each individual needs to support emotional, social, behavioural and cognitive wellbeing and growth.

As we believe in treating everyone fairly, we acknowledge that we cannot treat everyone the same and that from time to time everyone's needs may vary.

### **Expectations**

The expectations of Flowerdale Primary School are:

- That equity occurs
- Student attendance is at or above 95%
- All people respect themselves, others and their environment
- That we value diversity
- That we adhere to Uniform and Sunsmart policies
- That bullying and harassment in any form is not acceptable. Refer to the Anti-Bullying Policy.
- That prohibited activities will not occur
- That conduct when travelling to and from school and during school activities will be appropriate
- That students remain in the school grounds unless permitted to leave

### **Legislative Background**

Legislation including The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, Equal Opportunity Act 1995, Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Student Engagement Policy Guidelines are the foundation for our Engagement Policy.

This policy is to be used in conjunction with the:

- Child Safety Policy
- Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Reporting Child Abuse Policy
- Cultural safety for Aboriginal children

- Student Voice and Empowerment Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Drug Education/Life Education
- Multicultural Diversity website- <http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/>
- Mandatory Reporting Policy
- Accidents and Incident Register
- Camps and Excursions Policy
- SSSO Policy
- Rights and Responsibilities Document

This policy was reviewed and updated in May 2014  
Reviewed and ratified by School Council July 2017

