

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & WELLBEING POLICY

WHOLE SCHOOL PREVENTION STATEMENT

All students within the ESC community are encouraged to have high levels of attendance and positive behaviours

We have several programs in place which support students to achieve these aims. These include but are not limited to:



- External services such as tertiary institutions, workplaces, community groups and alternative educational settings such as farm school
- School nurse, psychologist, attendance officer, social workers and school chaplain
- Martial arts therapy, Links Mentoring Program, Beyond All Expectations
- Year 12 Mentoring program
- Links with the Australian College of Youth Training
- Work experience
- Vocational education
- Peer support and
- Extended Home Group activities supporting the college values.
- Homework and breakfast clubs, reading café, VCE master classes and revision lectures
- Attractive, safe and stimulating physical environment including excellent ICT facilities, Performing Arts centre new and refurbished teaching and learning spaces.
- Extensive range of extra-curricular and leadership opportunities.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Every member of the college community has a right to fully participate in an educational setting that provides a supportive and inclusive environment.
- All students have the right to learn and socialise on a safe environment, be treated with respect and expect access to a program that meets their individual needs.
- All staff have the right to work in a positive learning community and be able to contribute to a teaching and learning environment that supports the learning of themselves and others.
- All parents have the right to know their children are safe and happy, expect a positive and supportive approach to their child's learning and expect communication in matters relating to their child's education.

WITH RIGHTS COME RESPONSIBILITIES. IT IS REASONABLE EXPECTATION THAT:

- All students be prepared to learn, to explore their full potential and to respect the rights of others.
- All staff build positive relationships with students, developing stimulating, safe and purposeful learning experiences and treat all members of the College community with respect, fairness and dignity.
- All parents develop positive partnerships with staff, ensure students attend school and have the appropriate learning materials and participate in decisions relating to their children's education.

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

The college has a zero tolerance approach to bullying and harassment.

Harassment is any verbal, physical or sexual conduct (including gestures) which is uninvited, unwelcome or offensive to a person.

Bullying is repeated harassment, physical or psychological, of a less powerful person by a more powerful person or group.

Cyberbullying is a form of bullying which occurs through the internet such as email, chat room, discussion groups, online social networking, instant messaging or web pages. It can also include bullying through the use of a mobile phone such as texting or sending photos of an offensive or inappropriate nature. Students

need to understand that in the case of sexting, students receiving photos of an appropriate nature can face the same consequences as those students who have sent the photos. This is also illegal in the eyes of the law. If you are being harassed or bullied you should

- Tell the person you don't like what they are doing and you want them to stop
- Discuss the matter with a student leader/coordinator that you feel comfortable with

Your concerns will be taken seriously. All complaints will be treated confidentially. Extreme forms of bullying and harassment will lead to police involvement and criminal prosecution.

Bystanders who do nothing to stop bullying may be contributing to the problem by giving the bully an audience. All members of the college community have a responsibility to challenge bullying behaviours. If you witness bullying or harassment in or outside the college involving a member of the college you must report it to a teacher.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

The school is committed to the use of restorative practices with students. Restorative practices

- Are underpinned by student learning and facilitate an environment of student safety trust and connectedness
- Promote awareness of others, responsibility and empathy
- Involve direct and voluntary participation of those affected by misconduct in its resolution
- Promote relationship management rather than behaviour management
- Separate the problem from the person
- Are concerned with establishing or re-establishing social equality in relationships; that is relationships in which each person's rights to equal dignity, concern and respect are satisfied
- You may be asked to participate in a restorative conference or chat to help you resolve conflicts and issues at the college

SCHOOL ACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

Student engagement, regular attendance and positive behaviours will be supported through relationship based whole school and classroom practices, including:

- Establishing predictable, fair and democratic classrooms and school environments
- Ensuring student participation in the development of classroom and whole school expectations
- Providing personalised learning programs where appropriate for individual students
- Consistently acknowledging all students
- Empowering students by creating multiple opportunities for them to take responsibility and be involved in decision-making
- Providing physical environments conducive to positive behaviours and effective engagement in learning

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOURS, INCLUDING IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE WILL BE RESPONDED TO THROUGH A STAGED RESPONSE INCLUDING:

- Understanding the students background and needs
- Ensuring a clear understanding of expectations by both students and teachers
- Providing consistent school and classroom environments
- Scaffolding the students learning program

APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR WILL BE RECOGNISED BY:

- Achievement awards
- Celebration assemblies – whole school and year level
- Assessment and reporting practices
- School references
- Newsletters – Bush Telegraph
- Student leadership opportunities and Student Representative Council

- Positive feedback
- Presentation night
- Camps and excursions
- Awards and prizes
- Participation in special groups and programs

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR WILL BE RESPONDED TO WITH:

- Restorative practices
- Parent / guardian involvement
- Student support group meetings
- Curriculum response
- Coordinated and collaborative strategies
- Reflection and monitoring
- Learning and/r behavioural supports
- Wellbeing referrals
- Vocational support
- Peer mediation and/or tutoring
- Individualised flexible learning, behaviour or attendance plans
- Provision of broader educational programs
- Alternate settings or programs
- Other supports as appropriate

PUNITIVE APPROACHES

- Discussion with student referring them to the shared expectations
- Conduct / Progress cards or reports
- Signing or registers eg Bullying / Harassment, Portable Technologies
- Detentions – lunch, after school
- Withdrawal from classes – internal suspension, time out in junior and senior classes
- Exclusion from camps, excursions or other events (withdrawal from privileges)
- Payment for repairs / replacement of items stolen / vandalism
- External suspension
- Expulsion from school
- Other penalties as appropriate