

Student Engagement and Wellbeing 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.

Brentwood Secondary 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, and that 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.

Contents

1. School profile
2. School values, philosophy and vision
3. Engagement strategies
4. Identifying students in need of support
5. Student rights and responsibilities
6. Student behavioural expectations
7. Engaging with families
8. Evaluation

Policy

1. School profile

Brentwood Secondary College is a vibrant learning community where all students are supported and encouraged to achieve success and to pursue excellence. A learning community is a place where everyone is learning, both independently and together, and where everyone is continually striving to improve. Our guiding philosophy is the belief that all students learn best when they are happy, healthy and resilient.

Our purpose is to ensure that every student is provided with every opportunity to achieve their potential. A Brentwood education will provide every student with the opportunity to develop their

talents, to nurture a passion and to grow in confidence about their future. Every student will be supported in their intellectual, emotional, social and physical development by a highly professional group of teachers and education support staff.

Brentwood Secondary College is a co-educational school located in the eastern Melbourne suburb of Glen Waverley. The socio-economic profile of the school is classified as high. The 2019 enrolment was 1643 including 41 International Students. The total enrolment has been increasing over recent years. The number of equivalent full time staff employed was 130. This equates to 4 principal class officers, 104 teachers and 26 education support staff.

The Junior School curriculum at Year 7 integrates the study of English (or EAL), Humanities and ICT in a program that is called Thinking, Learning and Creativity (or TLC). Mathematics, Science, Health/PE, Languages (German or Japanese) and The Arts (Art and Music) are taught as stand-alone subjects. A Curriculum Enrichment Program is offered to those students who demonstrate academic skills above those of their peer group. There are two Enrichment classes at Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9; one that studies German and the other Japanese. The Year 8 curriculum includes the study of English (or EAL), Mathematics, Humanities, Science, Health/PE, Languages and Technology (Food Tech and Information Tech). At Year 9 the core curriculum is reduced to English, Mathematics, Humanities and Science thus allowing for the introduction of a range of specialised elective units. This model promotes personalised learning pathways in preparation for senior school. The senior school curriculum provides opportunities for advanced placement in VCE subjects and university enhancement studies.

A secure education or training pathway beyond Brentwood is a priority for all students. There is a strong commitment to pastoral care and the extra-curricular program promotes high levels of participation. Student leadership opportunities are spread across a broad range of activities and services. The Brentwood culture is one of learning, leadership and high expectations for every member of our community.

2. School values and vision

Brentwood Secondary College's values are integral to the work that we do and are the foundation of our school community. Students, staff and members of our school community are encouraged to live and demonstrate our core community values of compassion, empathy, integrity, respect, and responsibility at every opportunity.

Our values for learning are creativity, curiosity, discipline, reflection and resilience. It is through these values that we learn as a connected community to grow as individuals who are future ready.

3. Engagement strategies

Brentwood Secondary College has developed a range of strategies to promote engagement, positive behaviour and respectful relationships 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:

Universal

- high and consistent expectations of all staff, students and parents and carers
- 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, VCE and VCAL to ensure that students are able to choose subjects and programs that are tailored to their interests, strengths and aspirations
- teachers at Brentwood Secondary College use Brentwood's GROWTH instructional Model 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 Brentwood Secondary College 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 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
- carefully planned 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 on decisions about school operations through the Student Representative Council and other forums including year group meetings and Peer Support Groups. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, house leader, Associate Principal and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through school plays, athletics, music programs and peer support programs
- All students are welcome to self-refer to Student Wellbeing, First-Aid, House Leaders, Associate Principal and Principal if they would like to discuss a particular issue or feel as though they may need support of any kind. We are proud to have an 'open door' policy where students and staff are partners in learning
- we engage in school wide positive behaviour support with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:
 - Respectful Relationships
 - Safe Schools
- programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific behaviour (i.e. cyber safety programs)
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, clubs, recess and lunchtime activities)
- peer support programs.

Targeted

- each year group has a House Leader, a teacher responsible for their House at each year level, who monitor the health and wellbeing of students, and act as a point of contact for students who may need additional support
- all students will be assisted to develop a Career Action Plan, with targeted goals and support to plan for their future
- connect all Koorie students with a Koorie Engagement Support Officer
- all students in Out of Home Care will be appointed a Learning Mentor, have an Individual Learning Plan and will be referred to Student Support Services for an Educational Needs Assessment
- Brentwood Secondary College assists students to plan their Year 10 work experience, supported by their Career Action Plan
- wellbeing and health staff will undertake health promotion and social skills development in response to needs identified by student wellbeing data, classroom teachers or other school staff each year
- staff will apply a trauma-informed approach to working with students who have experienced trauma.

Brentwood Secondary College implements a range of strategies that support and promote individual engagement. These can include:

- building constructive relationships with students at risk or students who are vulnerable due to complex individual circumstances
- meeting with student and their parent/carer to talk about how best to help the student engage with school
- developing an Individual Learning Plan and/or a Behaviour Support Plan
- considering if any environmental changes need to be made, for example changing the classroom set up
- referring the student to:
 - school-based wellbeing supports
 - Student Support Services
 - Appropriate external supports such as council based youth and family services, other allied health professionals, headspace, child and adolescent mental health services or ChildFirst
 - Re-engagement programs.

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 and 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
- running regular Student Support Group meetings for all students:
 - with a disability
 - in Out of Home Care
 - and with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.

4. Identifying students in need of support

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

- 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
- attendance, detention and suspension data
- engagement with families
- self-referrals or referrals from peers.

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 [Values](#) highlight 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 staff member or a member of the school leadership team.

6. Student behavioural expectations

Behavioural expectations of students, staff and families are grounded in our school's Values. Student bullying behaviour will be responded to consistently with Brentwood Secondary College's Bullying policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Brentwood Secondary College will institute a staged response, consistent with the Department's Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidelines. Where appropriate, parents will be informed about the inappropriate behaviour and the disciplinary action taken by teachers and other school staff.

Disciplinary measures may be used as part of a staged response to inappropriate behaviour in combination with other engagement and support strategies to ensure that factors that may have contributed to the student's behaviour are identified and addressed. Disciplinary measures at our school will be applied fairly and consistently. Students will always be provided with an opportunity to be heard.

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 House Leader
- restorative practices
- detentions
- behaviour reviews
- suspension
- expulsion.

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

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/engagement.aspx>

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

7. Engaging with families

Brentwood Secondary College 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:

- ensuring that all parents have access to our school policies and procedures, available on our school website
- maintaining an open, respectful line of communication between parents and staff, supported by our College Communications policy
- providing parent volunteer opportunities so that families can contribute to school activities
- involving families with homework and other curriculum-related activities
- involving families in school decision making
- coordinating resources and services from the community for families
- including families in Student Support Groups, and developing individual plans for students.

8. Evaluation

Brentwood Secondary College will collect data each year to understand the frequency and types of wellbeing issues that are experienced by our students so that we can measure the success or otherwise of our school based strategies and identify emerging trends or needs.

Sources of data that will be assessed on an annual basis include:

- student survey data
- incidents data
- school reports
- parent survey
- case management
- CASES21 school management system
- Student Online Case System (SOCS).

Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Referenced in student diaries so that it is easily accessible to parents, carers and students
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

Our school will also ensure it follows the mandatory parent/carers notification requirements with respect to suspensions and expulsions outlined in the Department's policies at:

- [Suspension process](#)
- [Expulsions - Decisions](#)

Further information and resources

Bully Prevention Policy - <https://brentwood.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Bully-Prevention-Policy-2019.pdf>

Child Safety Code of Conduct - <https://brentwood.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Child-Safety-Code-of-Conduct-2018.pdf>

Review cycle

This policy was last updated on Oct 25, 2021 and is scheduled for review in 2024 or earlier if required.