# Wycheproof P12 College Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy

**Help for non-English speakers**

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact Wycheproof P12 College. Phone: (03) 54937409 Email: wycheproof.p12@education.vic.gov.au

## 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.

Wycheproof P12 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, where student participation is encouraged and valued, helps to engage students and support them in their learning. Our school acknowledges that student wellbeing and student learning outcomes are closely linked. Our school has a ZERO tolerance towards any form of CHILD ABUSE.

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. Wellbeing and engagement strategies
4. Identifying students in need of support
5. Student rights and responsibilities
6. Student behavioural expectations and management
7. Engaging with families
8. Evaluation


## POLICY

1. School profile

The College is situated in the small rural town of Wycheproof, which is on the Calder Highway approximately half way between Melbourne and Mildura. Students are drawn from the surrounding areas of Wycheproof and Nullawil. Despite declining numbers due to the economic and demographic impact of the prolonged drought, the College provides an engaging and diverse education from Prep to Year 12.

The College structure includes three levels of schooling: Early Years (P-4), Middle Years (5-8) and Later Years (9-12). There is a strong focus on literacy and numeracy across the school. The College operates a comprehensive curriculum based on the Victorian Essential Learning Standards and students are offered a choice of pathways that include VCE or VM (with options to undertake a VET subject). Exceptional VCE results and VM outcomes leading to employment continue to reflect an impressive record in VCE achievement.

For a school of its size, the school has impressive facilities and programs including a large sporting complex, spacious well-maintained grounds, specialist rooms, a comprehensive instrumental music program, an ICT rich curriculum and an excellent choice of technology-based subjects. The College runs a variety of cultural and educational programs with the support of its vibrant staff and local community. We are proud of our inclusive school community and seek opportunities to celebrate and recognise diversity. Wycheproof P12 College strives to provide a nurturing and challenging environment that empowers students to reach their personal best, both academically and socially. The school shares a boundary with Mount Wycheproof and as such, opportunities to connect our students to the natural assets of our community are highly valued.

## 2. School values, philosophy and vision

At Wycheproof P-12 College we have strong expectations of our students and staff. The school motto at Wycheproof P-12 College is 'Be Your Best'. We expect all to be well mannered, hard-working and proactive in their desire to make the most of their educational opportunities. As our population is small, we expect our students to positively contribute to, and support, our community. A safe and strong learning community underlies our focus on teaching and learning. Schools have an important responsibility for keeping children safe. In order to achieve a **zero-tolerance approach to child abuse** Wycheproof P12 College has adopted a **Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct.** We take advantage of our P-12 structure by offering a unified curriculum, individual learning programs, and sharing of staff expertise across all year levels.

The College is committed to meeting the educational, social and cultural needs of the students through promoting a caring, supportive and educationally challenging environment that provides students with the opportunity to maximise their potential through providing a broad range of cultural activities and setting high academic standards. We are committed to providing a safe, happy and positive environment, with high standards of student behaviour expected and encouraged. **Corporal punishment is not permitted at Wycheproof P12 College.** We aim to build strong relationships amongst students, staff, parents and the wider community. Students, staff and members of our school community are encouraged to live and demonstrate our core values of respect, integrity and kindness at every opportunity. Our school's vision is to empower students to reach their personal best, and fully equip them to contribute positively to society as happy, healthy young adults.

The Values, which form the basis of actions of our College community, are:
**COMMUNITY**: connectedness to each other and our community
**OWNERSHIP**: responsibility for our learning and our actions
**RESPECT**: for each other and our environment
**EFFORT**: participation, achievement and creativity

These values are demonstrated when:

- All members of the College community feel they are treated fairly
- Partnerships between the College and the wider community are fostered and valued
- Students have the opportunity to learn in a positive, caring environment and are encouraged to become self motivated life long learners

- Success and effort are celebrated and recognised
- The College community recognises and celebrates the differences in ability, race, religion and beliefs of others
- All students are encouraged to achieve their personal best in all that they do

The College Council meets regularly, and the school's leadership team works closely with all staff. Student voice is encouraged through participation in the Student Representative Council (SRC).

**More can be found about our expected behaviours, school values and policies, on our school website.**

## 3. Wellbeing and engagement strategies

Wycheproof P12 College has developed a range of strategies to promote engagement, an inclusive and safe environment, positive behaviour, and respectful relationships for all students in our school. We recognise the importance of student friendships and peer support in helping children and students feel safe and less isolated. 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.

Whole School:

- 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 and that embraces and celebrates diversity and empowers all students to participate and feel valued
- 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 VM to ensure that students are able to choose subjects and programs that are tailored to their interests, strengths and aspirations
- teachers at Wycheproof P12 College use a common instructional framework to ensure an explicit, and shared model of instruction to ensure that evidenced-based, high yield teaching practices are incorporated into all lessons
- teachers at Wycheproof P12 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 Statement of Values and School Philosophy 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. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Student Coordinators, Assistant Principal and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through school athletics, music programs and student leadership programs
- all students are welcome to self-refer to the School Nurse, Mental Health Practitioner, Student Coordinators, Assistant 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 needs or behaviour (i.e. anger management programs)
- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, music groups, SRC, recess and lunchtime activities)
- measures are in place to empower our students, staff and school community to identify, report and address inappropriate and harmful behaviours such as racism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination or harassment.

Targeted:

- Student Coordinators are responsible for working closely with combined year levels of students, 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
- Koorie students are supported to engage fully in their education, in a positive learning environment that understands and appreciates the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture
- our English as a second language students are supported through recognition of the importance of their cultural backgrounds through discussions at a classroom level
- we provide a positive and respectful learning environment for our students who identify as LGBTIQ+ and follow the Department's policy on LGBTIQ+ support and are a Safe School
- all students in Out of Home Care are supported in accordance with the Department's policy on Supporting Students in Out-of-Home Care including being appointed a Learning Mentor, having an Individual Learning Plan and a Student Support Group (SSG) and being referred to Student Support Services for an Educational Needs Assessment
- students with a disability are supported to be able to engage fully in their learning and school activities in accordance with the Department's policy on Students with Disability, such as through reasonable adjustments to support access to learning programs, consultation with families and where required, student support groups and individual education plans
- 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
- all students from Year 10 and above will be assisted to develop a Career Action Plan, with targeted goals and support to plan for their future (overseen by the NCLLEN)
- Wycheproof P12 College assists students to plan their Year 10 and 11 work experience, supported by their Career Action Plan

*Individual:*

Programs and supports implemented are on a case-by-case basis according to need:

- *Student Support Groups*
- *Individual Education Plans*
- *Behaviour - Students*
- *Behaviour Support Plans*
- *Student Support Services*

as well as to other Department programs and services such as:

- Program for Students with Disabilities
- *Mental health toolkit*
- *headspace*
- Navigator
- LOOKOUT

Wycheproof P12 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 such as Navigator

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 Plans in collaboration with the student and their family
- engaging with our regional Koorie Education Support Officers
- running regular Student Support Group meetings for all students:
    - with a disability
    - in Out of Home Care
    - with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.

## 4. Identifying students in need of support

Wycheproof P12 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 help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Wycheproof P12 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 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, racism, 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. Students can also access the school's Complaints Policy (available in the students shared folder, Policy folder). Further information about raising a complaint or concern is available in our Complaints Policy.

## 6. Student behavioural expectations and management

Behavioural expectations of students are grounded in our school's Respectful Relationships Program and Statement of Values and School Philosophy Policy.

Violence, bullying, and other offensive and harmful behaviours such as racism, harassment and discrimination will not be tolerated and will be managed in accordance with this policy. Bullying will be managed in accordance with our Bullying Prevention Policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Wycheproof P12 College will institute a staged response, consistent with the Department's policies on behaviour, discipline and student wellbeing and engagement. Where appropriate, parents will be informed about the inappropriate behaviour and the disciplinary action taken by teachers and other school staff.

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 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 (including use of school resources such as equipment and digital devices and involvement in school programs – excursions, camps, special events)
- referral to the appropriate Student 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 Principal of Wycheproof P12 College is responsible for ensuring all suspensions and expulsions are recorded on CASES21.

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

## 7. Engaging with families

Wycheproof P12 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 Communicating with School Staff 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

Wycheproof P12 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, including attendance and absence data
- SOCS

Wycheproof P12 College will also regularly monitor available data dashboards to ensure any wellbeing or engagement issues are acted upon in a timely manner and any intervention occurs as soon as possible.

# COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included details of where to find related policies in the Staff Shared Folder in Staff Handbook (during induction processes)
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

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 at:

- Suspension process
- Expulsions - Decision

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The following Department of Education and Training policies are relevant to this Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy:

- Attendance
- Behaviour - Students
- Child Safe Standards
- Expulsions
- Koorie Education
- LGBTIQA+ Student Support
- Restraint and Seclusion
- Student Engagement
- Students with Disability
- Supporting Students in Out-of-Home Care
- Suspensions

The following school policies are also relevant to this Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy:

- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Statement of Values and School Philosophy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Policy last reviewed | June 2026 |
| Consultation | School Council meeting, staff and parents via email. Discussion at Whole School Assembly. |
| Approved by | Principal |
| Next scheduled review date | June 2028 |