

Student Wellbeing Policy

29 April 2019



**VIRTUAL
SCHOOL VICTORIA**

Policy Statement

VSV provides flexible learning opportunities to a diverse and unique cohort of Victorian Foundation -12 students. VSV fosters a safe, engaging and inclusive learning environment by coupling state of the art technology with innovative teaching practices. Our teachers are trained and experienced in best practice online learning techniques, providing students with regular interaction and individualised support.

VSV utilises the Health Promoting Schools framework to provide a whole school approach to student wellbeing and to ensure child safety practices are in accordance with the Child Safe Schools guidelines. We are dedicated to building the confidence and resilience of every student. Our structures, policies and programs support the development of the whole person; academically, socially, emotionally and personally.

Aims

1. To create and maintain a safe and supportive learning environment that supports all students to be confident and resilient learners.
2. To develop the capacity, confidence and willingness of all staff to share responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of students.
3. To integrate evidence -based wellbeing approaches and strategies into whole school practice and planning processes.
4. To utilise student wellbeing and inclusion data to inform planning and implementation of whole school program development.

Implementation

The Student Wellbeing team, under the guidance of the Assistant Principal: Student Engagement and Wellbeing, are responsible for leading implementation of the Student Wellbeing and related policies, including: Child Safe School; Student Inclusion and Bullying Prevention policies.

The role of Learning Advisor is taken on by all teaching staff as a core element of their position with VSV. The role is designed to provide all students with a strong protective, persistent and positive relationship connecting the student and their family to the school. The Learning Advisor provides an integral link in supporting the wellbeing of all VSV-based students by monitoring all aspects of engagement with the school, coordinating the provision of student learning plans alongside the supports provided by specialist practitioners and facilitating the delivery of additional specialist wellbeing supports when they are required. The wellbeing needs of school-based students are managed by their mainstream school.

The Student Wellbeing team maintain responsive services to the VSV school community to ensure accessible and secure mental health and wellbeing supports are in place for all VSV-based students requiring assistance. This includes:

- Management and response of referrals from VSV staff, families and/or students seeking additional assistance for wellbeing or inclusion concerns;
- Provision of case support, advocacy and referral for students and their families, including response to critical incidents such as acute health events, child protection concerns or other crises;
- Collection and maintenance of relevant case records and data in a confidential manner, as well as the analysis of data to inform VSV policy and practice.
- Provision of consultation and professional learning supports to VSV Learning Advisors and other staff to guide understanding and support for student circumstances and relationships.

The Student Wellbeing Team collaborate through the Student Coordinators team, Sub-School Leadership groups and Combined Leaders to represent and support integration of student wellbeing evidence and approaches into all aspects of the school operations including enrolments, engagement, teaching and learning (including reporting) and pathways.

VSV recognises the heightened vulnerability of some student cohorts including students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds, LGBTIQ students, students with learning difficulties or disabilities and students residing in Out of Home Care. The Student Wellbeing team provides oversight of initiatives to ensure the connection and inclusion of these groups into the life of the school community. Within the team, the Student Inclusion Coordinator leads strategies to ensure personalised learning programs are in place for students with disabilities. (see Student Inclusion Policy)

The collection of student wellbeing and inclusion data provided by families and practitioners at the time of enrolment and at the time of referral to Student Wellbeing and Inclusion is undertaken by the Wellbeing team to inform the planning of whole school policy and practice. Data collection and reporting are undertaken in a manner consistent with the DET requirements of privacy and confidentiality.

The team also lead the development of partnerships with key Department of Education and community based services and agencies to facilitate timely and accessible service provision to students and their families.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

Reference to other VSV Policies and Documentation.

VSV Child Safe School Policy

VSV Student Inclusion Policy

VSV Bullying and Harassment Policy

VSV Student Engagement Policy

Mandatory Reporting Policy

Policy – Identification and Recording

Policy Information

Policy Name:	Student Wellbeing Policy
Current Version:	2.0 November 2017
Purpose:	Provision of safe, secure and stimulating learning environment
Scope:	Whole staff
Policy Owner:	Advisory Board
Policy Author:	Simon Fazio, Voula Kengos, Donna Axton, Jo Miller
Related policies and legislation:	Student Engagement, Child Safe policies, Student Inclusion policy
Internal procedures guided by this policy:	Student support and safety

Revision History

Revision Date:	Status: (Draft/Final)	Summary of Changes	Prepared/Approved By:	Revision #
Aug 2014	Final	New	Simon Fazio, Voula Kengos, Donna Axton, Jo Miller	Aug 2015
8/11/17	Final	Revision	Rob Mason	Dec 2018



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