SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

STATEMENT

Rationale

At Sacred Heart Parish School, the welfare of our students is paramount. Student wellbeing and engagement are a priority, and drive our teaching and learning programs. At Sacred Heart Parish School we want to:

· create an environment that promotes positive health, emotional competency and where students can thrive and flourish

· create a student centred school through inclusion and positive relationships

Implementation

School, home and the community have a shared accountability for student engagement, regular attendance and positive behaviours.

To promote and foster student engagement across the school, Sacred Heart will implement proactive strategies for:

· building a culture of fostering positive relationships;

· establishing predictable, fair environments;

· providing personalised learning programs;

· acknowledging all students contributions to school life;

· providing opportunities for decision making and responsibility;

· providing a pleasant physical environment;

· teaching and promoting student managed learning

The school prides itself on promoting an environment where learning for life is encouraged through strong partnerships between staff, students and their families. Our students and staff learn together, building a culture that is caring, just and educationally sound. While respect for each other and the environment is the foundation for our school values, we strive for equality, friendliness and a genuine commitment to achievement for all.

The school promotes the philosophy of equal opportunity, non-discrimination and the recognition of the diversity of cultures. Each student is aware that bullying and intolerance are not accepted at school, and that good manners, hard work and kind deeds are encouraged.

The school prides itself on being a supportive and caring school. Students who are living under difficult circumstances are supported by the school. Parents of these students are also offered support both emotionally and financially by being directed to the most suitable agency that can accommodate their needs.

At Sacred Heart Parish School we aim:

· To foster a healthy school culture in which high levels of achievement take place within a positive social environment through engagement

· To provide students with a safe learning environment where students feel physically and emotionally secure

· To provide support for individual circumstances when a student begins to disengage from their learning, when regular attendance is not consistent or positive behaviours are not demonstrated

· To maximise student learning opportunities and performance through engagement

· To provide genuine opportunities for student/parent participation and student/parent voice

· To build a school environment based on positive behaviours and values

School Rights and Responsibilities

At Sacred Heart Parish School, we value learning that empowers each student to explore and engage with the world. In our school community we value difference and we believe in a fair go for all. We value the free and confident communication of ideas and opinions, and fostering self acceptance and the challenge to learn, grow and develop one's potential.

With these objectives in mind, every member of Sacred Heart Parish School community has the right to fully participate in an educational environment that is safe, supportive and inclusive. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect, dignity and honesty. Everyone has the responsibility to consider others, to embrace the value of difference and to contribute to building a fair and just environment.

Sacred Heart Parish School acknowledges its obligations under the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010 and the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and accepts its responsibility to communicate these obligations to all members of the school community. Any form of violence, bullying, harassment, intimidation and discrimination is unacceptable and undermines the capacity of the school community to work together. The school acknowledges its students' rights to education and that a student can only be excluded from school as a last response to inappropriate behaviours.

Shared Expectations

Sacred Heart has developed shared expectations to ensure that the learning, safety and rights of all are respected.

The expectations are intended to be positive in that they set out what is expected and appropriate behaviours for our school community.

Our school expectations are intended to support individual students and families that come to our community from a diversity of backgrounds, communities and experiences.

Principals Teachers Staff Engagement

The school will provide an educational environment that ensures all students are respected and cared for. Individual student learning needs will be catered for through a flexible learning approach that incorporates a range of different learning styles.

Attendance

The school will engage in practices that:

· Proactively promote regular attendance.

· Provide parents with contact telephone numbers for information if absences occur.

· Accurately mark rolls twice daily.

· Follow-up any regular student absences.

· Analyse attendance data to identify trends or problems with particular students.

· Report the attendance data in the Annual Report to the school community.

· Communicate with parents/carers if any action is required regarding issues with nonattendance

Behaviour
The school will support and promote positive behavior.
With student wellbeing at the centre of school operations, appropriate behaviours will be modeled and reinforced consistently throughout the school by:
· day to day modeling of desirable behaviors by the whole school community.
· development and implementation of behavior management strategies that reflect the school's metier
· high expectations of appropriate behavior.

School Actions and Consequences
Student engagement, regular attendance and positive behaviours are supported most effectively through relationship-based whole-school and classroom practices.
At Sacred Heart we:
· Establish a fair and democratic classroom and school environment.
· Ensure student participation in the development of classroom and whole-school expectations.
· Consistently acknowledge all students.
· Empower students by creating opportunities for them to take responsibility and be involved in decision-making.
· Provide physical environments conducive to positive behaviours and effective engagement in learning.

Inappropriate behaviours, including irregular attendance, are responded to through a staged response with a focus on prevention and early intervention, including:
· Understanding the student.
· Ensuring a clear understanding of expectations by both students and teachers.
· Providing consistent school and classroom environments.
· Scaffolding the student's learning program.

Broader support strategies include:
· Involving and supporting the parents/carers.
· Convening student support group meetings.
· Developing individualised flexible learning, behaviour or attendance plans.
· Involving community support agencies.

Student Welfare & Management
Our school's approach to student wellbeing is designed to support the whole student. This method will enable students to develop empathy and concern for others and provide them with strategies to address their issues in the school and at home, through student voice, engagement, agency etc.

Student Welfare & Management Mediation
Mediation is a positive problem-solving process that can prevent conflicts and misunderstandings from becoming protracted and destructive disputes. It aims to help people resolve their differences. It helps disputing parties to assess their options realistically and reach mutually acceptable solutions. The mediation process encourages future cooperation.
It is a structured, goal-directed process that follows clear steps, and resolves disputes confidentially. An independent third party, the mediator, helps the parties to talk with one another, and to listen to one another's grievances. Through this exchange of information parties gain insight into how the other is feeling about the situation, and they achieve understanding and respect. The mediator focuses discussion between the parties on problem-solving rather than blame and punishment.

While other methods of conflict resolution in schools may involve a solution or decision being imposed upon the parties by someone in authority, mediation invites parties to formulate their own solutions, and to take responsibility for their actions.

Mediation is a conflict resolution process that can be applied across the school community. As such, it is an ideal process to integrate into whole school community policies and procedures.

Basic Steps in Mediation

1. Creating the context – a comfortable and private space and sufficient uninterrupted time are provided
2. Explaining the process – the purpose and ground rules of mediation are discussed
3. Listening to what happened – both sides are enabled to tell their story in turn and without interruption
4. Defining problems and concerns – concerns are clarified and an agenda is set by the mediator with participants
5. Focusing on the future and finding solutions – solutions that suit both parties are sought from the parties themselves
6. Concluding – a shared agreement is confirmed and sometimes written down.

Students Engagement

Demonstrate:
· a preparedness to engage fully in the school's curriculum.
· always putting in your personal best.
· encouraging others and working cooperatively
· developing a culture of support for individual learning differences within the classroom

Behaviour
It is expected that students will:
· demonstrate the school's values in their learning and behavior.
· have high expectations for their own learning.
· make a commitment to enhance the learning experiences of other students.
· understand and take responsibility for the impact of their behavior

Parents/Carer Engagement:

· support their children in their preparedness for school each day. This includes sleep routines, healthy diet and exercise, personal hygiene and providing a safe and secure home environment
· ensure their child/children complete homework
·remain informed about school activities by reading newsletters, attending Parent/Teacher interviews.
· where possible offer support for school activities such as the Art Show, Working Bees and various school committees.

Attendance

· ensure that all students' enrolment details are correct.
· ensure that all students attend school regularly.
· advise the school as soon as possible if a child is going to be absent · account for all student absences

Behaviour

· support the school's values and reinforce the school's behavioural expectations
· encourage their children to exhibit these values in all that they do