



# **Student Welfare Policy**

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## Context

Student welfare in our community language school encompasses everything we do to meet the personal, social and learning needs of students.

We create a safe, caring environment in which students are nurtured as they learn. This is achieved via:

- Collaborative early intervention when problems are identified;
- Providing opportunities for students to:
  - enjoy success and recognition;
  - make useful contributions;
  - derive enjoyment from their learning.

We provide effective learning and teaching within secure, well-managed environments. The objectives and outcomes that follow therefore relate to:

- Effective Learning and Teaching;
- Positive Climate and Good Discipline;
- Community Participation.

## Effective Learning and Teaching

### **Objective:**

To enhance effective learning and teaching by training teachers to:

- Encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour;
- Identify and cater for the individual learning needs of students;
- Establish well-managed teaching and learning environments;
- Ensure that learning activities build on prior knowledge and experiences and are socially and culturally relevant;
- Identify key social skills and developing plans for all students to acquire them, or make progress towards them, over time;
- Ensure that gender and equity issues are recognised and addressed across the curriculum.

### **Outcomes:**

- Students will be active participants in the learning process;
- Coordinated student services will provide effective support to classroom programs;
- The learning experiences of students will affirm their individuality and be positive and satisfying.

### **Results for students:**

- Students will participate in decisions about their own learning;
- Students will pursue a program of learning relevant to their needs and aspirations;
- Students will develop an understanding of themselves as well as skills for positive, socially responsible participation;
- Students will develop competencies which enhance the quality of their relationships with others;
- Students will feel valued as learners.

### **Positive Climate and Good Discipline**

#### **Objective:**

To enhance the community language school climate and discipline by encouraging teachers to:

- Maximise student participation in decision making and ensuring that principles of equity and fairness are reflected in school practice;
- Provide opportunities for students to demonstrate success in a wide range of activities;
- Develop and implement policies and procedures to protect the rights, safety and health of all language school community members;
- Establish clear school rules which are known and understood by all language school community members;
- Monitor attendance and ensuring that students attend their classes regularly;
- Value and provide opportunities for all students to develop the skills involved in positive relationships, social responsibility, problem solving and dispute resolution;
- Value difference and discourage narrow and limiting gender stereotypes;
- Incorporate students' views into planning related to school climate and organisation;
- Establish networks to support students and making sure that students and parents/guardians know about, and have ready access to, this support;
- Recognise the relationship between student and staff welfare and ensuring that staff welfare is also a priority.

#### **Outcomes:**

- The well-being, safety and health of students and other community members will be priorities in all policies, programs and practices;
- Principles of equity and justice will be evident in plans, programs and procedures;
- The discipline code of the community language school will provide clear guidelines for behaviour which are known by staff, students and parents/guardians who have contributed to their development;
- The language school will be a disciplined, ordered and cohesive community where individuals take responsibility and work together;

- The language school will reflect the values of its community and will welcome the participation of community members in the life of the school;
- The language school will be an inclusive environment which affirms diversity and respects difference.

***Results for students:***

- Students will be safe in the school environment;
- Students will know what is expected of them and of others in the school community;
- Students will be able to learn without disruption from unruly behaviour;
- Students will be provided with appropriate support programs;
- Students will contribute to decision making in the school;
- Students will participate in all aspects of school life as equals;
- Students will value difference;
- Students will be respected and supported in all aspects of their schooling.

**Community Participation**

***Objective:***

To enhance community participation by:

- Building learning communities in which staff, students and parents work together for planned results;
- Encouraging parents/guardians and community members to participate actively in the education of young people and in the life of the school;
- Acknowledging parents/guardians as partners in community language school education;
- Encouraging students to have a sense of belonging to the language school community;
- Assisting families to gain access to support services in the community.
- Fostering close links with the wider community;
- Inviting parents/guardians to share their skills and experiences in the language school community;
- Supporting students and their parents/guardians in making decisions about learning programs;
- Recognising students' families, cultures, languages and life experiences.

***Outcomes:***

- There will be strong links between students, staff, parents/guardians and other members of the school community;
- Parents/guardians and community members will participate in the education of young people and share the responsibility for shaping appropriate student behaviour;
- The curriculum, goals, plans and actions of the school will reflect the needs and aspirations of students and the wider school community;

- Students, parents/guardians and teachers will perceive that the learning and teaching programs in the community language school are relevant and beneficial;
- Staff will facilitate parents/guardians and community involvement in a range of language school activities.

**Results for students:**

- Students will be supported by parents/guardians and community participation in language school activities;
- Students will value the language school as an integral part of the community;
- Students and their families will know how to gain access to relevant support services in the community;
- Students will be partners with parents/guardians and teachers in the teaching and learning processes at the school.

**Responsibilities**

**Community language school teaching and support staff, will:**

- Ensure that they are familiar with the relevant policies;
- Contribute to the provision of a caring, well-managed, safe environment for all students, fellow staff and parents/guardians;
- Participate in the learning and teaching process in ways which take account of the objectives in this policy;
- Participate in the school community's implementation of the Student Welfare Policy.

Students will be encouraged to:

- Act according to the discipline code established by the language school community;
- Contribute to the provision of a caring, safe environment for fellow students, staff and parents/guardians;
- Participate actively in the learning and teaching process;
- Practise peaceful resolution of conflict.

Parents/guardians will be encouraged to:

- Participate in the learning of their children and the life of the community language school, including reviews of student welfare and the discipline code;
- Share responsibility for shaping their children's understanding about acceptable behaviour;
- Work with teachers to establish fair and reasonable expectations of the school.