

Jells Park Primary School

Student Welfare Policy (Duty of Care Policy)

Rationale

Student Welfare is a cornerstone of all of the school's policies, programs and activities. It addresses the health, safety, security, well-being and guidance of students and recognises that all children need care and support as they grow towards maturity. Welfare encompasses the physical, social, emotional and educational growth of students.

The school recognises that whenever a student-teacher relationship exists, the teacher has a special duty of care. **Schools in breach of the duty of care may be liable for injuries inflicted by one student on another, as well as for injuries sustained by a student.**

Duty of Care towards Student Welfare is a fundamental aspect of all staff roles and it is the school's responsibility to develop strategies which positively support the creation, maintenance and development of students' individual and collective well-being.

The School recognises the vital importance of healthy relationships and positive self-esteem in providing an optimum learning environment for students.

Aims:

1. For principals and teachers to have a legal duty to take reasonable steps to protect students in their charge from risks of injury that are reasonably foreseeable.
2. To create and continually improve an environment that provides a sense of belonging and promotes well-being.
3. To ensure strategies for primary prevention are established and built into the School's programs.
4. To plan and implement early intervention strategies to reduce risk and strengthen the coping skills of vulnerable students.
5. To provide staff with appropriate support to fulfil their duty of care and student welfare responsibilities.

Implementation:

1. The Principal / Assistant Principal have overall responsibility for Student Welfare in the school and must ensure that all **reasonable steps** are taken to protect the students from the risk.
2. All staff and students have responsibilities to contribute to the provision of a safe and supportive learning environment. Teachers have a key role in providing Duty of Care and monitoring Student Welfare and implementing primary prevention and early intervention strategies.
3. All school policies support Student Welfare, especially Anti-Bullying, Equal Opportunity, Emergency Management and health related policies.
4. Legislative requirements relating to Occupational Health and Safety and Mandatory Reporting, the School Charter and the teacher resource 'Framework for Student Support Services in Victorian Schools' (1999) are primary references.
5. The School is supported by Regional personnel such as Guidance Officers, Speech Pathologists and the Visiting Teacher Services.

References:

DEECD 'Duty of Care Policy Guidelines linked at:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/dutyofcare.aspx>

Appendix:

- Student Welfare (Duty of Care Documentation)

Jells Park Primary School

STUDENT WELFARE (Duty of Care) DOCUMENTATION

Student Welfare: Schoolwide

- Vision & Values
- Charter
- Staff Codes of Practice
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Equal Opportunity / Sexual Harassment Policies
- Supportive Relationships Policy

Student Welfare: Health and Safety

- Risk Management
- Emergency Management
- First Aid Guidelines
- Sunsmart Policy
- Syringe Policy
- Asthma Policy
- Anaphylaxis Policy
- Action Plan for Medical Emergency

Student Welfare: Codes of Behaviour

- Student Codes of Conduct
- Student Rights, Responsibilities and Rules Booklet
- D.E.E.T. Discipline Code

Student Welfare: School Programs/Guidelines

- Drug Education Strategy
- Internet Usage Policy
- Mobile Phone Policy
- Student Leadership Guidelines
- Tournament of Minds Guidelines
- Transition K–P Guidelines
- Transition 6–7 Guidelines
- Joining the Chorus Guidelines
- School Concert Guidelines
- Somers Camp Guidelines

Student Welfare: Student Care & Supervision

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Yard Duty Guidelines
- Transport Policy
- Excursion Policy
- Outdoor Education Policy
- Mandatory Reporting
- Student Well-being Policy
- Student Discipline Policy