

## ***Proposed Changes to the Student Engagement Policy***

Dear Parents and Carers

As well as teaching academic skills, it is part of the core business of all schools to promote student resilience, wellbeing and positive social attitudes.

At Huntly Primary School we are investing in programs and resources such as class based circle time, boys and girls groups, and a Student Wellbeing Officer, to assist all our students to build and effectively apply, the knowledge and skills necessary to:

- understand and manage emotions;
- establish and maintain positive relationships; and
- make responsible decisions.

We know that students with access to high levels of social and emotional learning opportunities feel more connected to school, and are more likely to be motivated, show improved academic outcomes, and are less likely to engage in violence.

Unfortunately recently we have a small minority of students who have not been able to manage their emotions and have engaged in behaviour that is disrespectful, and in a minority of cases, has been violent.

In line with community and legal expectations these behaviours have no place in our school environment.

School Council has discussed these matters and is proposing changes to our Student Engagement Policy (accessible via the school website) to ensure that every student at Huntly Primary School receives a safe and positive learning experience. These changes aim to support:

- students and teachers who are directly and indirectly affected as a consequence of inappropriate behaviours, by creating a safer, less disruptive and more harmonious school environment for learning; and
- students and the families of those who are conducting inappropriate behaviours, by strengthening and clarifying the procedures we use to deal with unacceptable behaviour.

The school will continue to work with parents and carers to ensure that all of our students are involved in programs that explicitly foster personal and social capabilities. This will be done in classrooms and, in some cases, using the expertise of our Student Support Services Officers such as Speech Therapists, Psychologists, Wellbeing and Visiting Teacher Services.

The proposed changes to the Student Engagement Policy are:

***If students are violent (both initiator or retaliator)***

- *Students involved will be removed from the yard and parents contacted to take students home immediately.*
- *Students will be “out-of-school” suspended the following day(s) (at the Principal’s discretion).*
- *On the students return, families will be involved in a re-entry interview with the Principal and an “in-school” suspension day will occur before the student is returned to class.*

***If students self-exit from the classroom:***

- *The student will be given an opportunity to return to the classroom.*
- *If the student refuses, parents, carers will be called and the student will be sent home.*
- *If the student self-exits a second time, they will not be given an opportunity to return to class. Parents/Carers will be called and the student will be sent home.*

***If students refuse to follow teachers’ instructions:***

- *Parents will be called and the student will be sent home.*

We are seeking your feedback.

The school community is asked to consider these changes over the next week and during the holiday period, and reply to the school using the form below, by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Completed forms should be returned to the labelled box in the office.

A parent forum will be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April to discuss these changes. This will take place in the Library at 2:45.

To assist in providing feedback, it is recommended that you read the following guidelines outlined on the Education and Training Department’s website:

Suspension -

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

Disciplinary Measures -

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/discipline.aspx>

If you have any other questions about these matters, please contact me.

Regards



Craig Burnett

Principal

I agree/disagree with the proposed changes to the Huntly Primary School Student Engagement Policy.

Please outline your reasons:

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