Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

1.   Introduction

Djerriwarrh Community College (the College) is an independent specialist senior secondary school based in Melton. We deliver the Victorian Pathway Certificate (VPC) and VCE Vocational Major Certificate (VM) for students aged 15-19 years. We provide a safe and inclusive learning environment for young people who may have been disengaged or are at risk of disengaging from education. The College is committed to supporting students to reach their individual personal, social and educational potential.

The College is committed to providing a safe, secure and engaging learning environment for all students. The College is committed to providing a safe, caring and supportive learning environment including promoting positive outcomes for young people.

2.   Purpose

The purpose of the Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy is to ensure that all students and members of our school community understand:

   a. our commitment to providing a safe, respectful and supportive learning environment for students

   b. expectations for positive student behaviour

   c. support available to students and families

   d. our school's policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour.

3.   Scope

This policy applies to College staff, volunteers, students, parents/guardians and all members of the school community.

4.   Definitions

College	Djerriwarrh Community College, 235 Station Road, Melton, 3337
Parent/Guardian	Includes parents/guardians as listed in the Enrolment Application Form
Principal	The Principal of the College, or the Principal's authorised delegate
Student	The Student named in the Enrolment Application Form

5.   Policy

The College supports the principles and practices of equal opportunity and human rights and undertakes to ensure that programs are accessible to all eligible members of the community and are responsive to individual needs. The College is committed to providing an inclusive environment and to enhancing the opportunities for participation in programs and services on offer regardless of culture, age, religion, sexuality, gender, political affiliation, ability or disability and, which is free from discrimination, harassment and racism.

5.1   College Values

Djerriwarrh Community College values, vison and mission are integral to the work that we do and is the foundation for our College community. Students, staff and members of our College are encouraged to live and demonstrate our core values:

Caring: We provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students.

Respectful: We treat all members of our school community fairly and equally.

Inclusive: We put the needs of our students' first and welcome diversity in our school community.

Adaptable: We respond to students needs in creative and flexible ways.

Accountable: We take responsibility for our decisions and follow through on our commitments.

5.2   Engagement Strategies

Djerriwarrh Community College has developed a range of strategies to promote engagement, positive behaviour and respectful relationships for all students.

General Strategies:

- prioritise positive relationships between staff and students, recognising the fundamental role this plays in building and sustaining student wellbeing

- follow the philosophy and methods of Restorative Practices

- create a culture that is inclusive, respectful, engaging and supportive

- welcome all Parents/Guardians and being responsive to them as partners in learning

- analysing and being responsive to a range of school data such as attendance, student surveys, parent survey data, student management data and school level assessment data

- deliver an engaging VPC/VM curriculum, ensuring that programs are tailored to students interests, strengths and aspirations

- adopt a range of teaching and assessment approaches to effectively respond to the diverse learning styles, strengths and needs of our students and follow the standards set by the Victorian Institute of Teaching

- positive behaviour and student achievement is acknowledged

- monitor student attendance and implement attendance improvement strategies at a whole school, cohort and individual level

- provide students with the opportunity to contribute to and provide feedback on decisions about school operations through the Student Representative Council and other forums including class meetings

- Students are also encouraged to speak with staff whenever they have any questions or concerns

- create opportunities for connections amongst students through activities and programs

- all students are welcome to self-refer to the Youth Worker or school leadership if they would like to discuss a particular issue or feel as though they may need support of any kind. We have an 'open door' policy where students and staff are partners in learning

- programs, incursions and excursions developed to address specific behavioural issues (i.e. anger management, anti-bullying programs)

- opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. Breakfast Club and recess and lunchtime activities)

5.3 Individual Strategies

- referral to external assessment and support services and related programs

- building constructive relationships with students at risk or students who are vulnerable due to complex individual circumstances

- meeting with student and their parent/guardian to talk about how best to help the student engage with school

- developing an Individual Learning Plan and/or a Student Behaviour Plan

- considering if any environmental changes need to be made, for example changing the classroom set up

- referring the student to:

  - school-based wellbeing support

  - appropriate external supports such as council based youth and family services, other allied health professionals, Headspace, child and adolescent mental health services

- being responsive and sensitive to changes in the student's circumstances, health and wellbeing

- teachers and college staff can make wellbeing referrals on behalf of students

- collaborating, where appropriate and with the support of the student and their parents/guardians, with any external allied health professionals, services or agencies that are supporting the student

- monitoring individual student attendance and developing an Attendance Improvement Plan in collaboration with the student and their parent/guardians

5.4 Identifying students in need of support

Djerriwarrh Community College is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. College staff play a significant role in developing and implementing strategies to help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Djerriwarrh Community College will utilise the following information and tools to identify students in need of emotional, social or educational support:

- personal, health and learning information gathered upon enrolment and while the student is enrolled

- attendance records

- academic performance

- observations by school staff such as changes in engagement, behaviour, self-care, social connectedness and motivation

- engagement with parents/guardians

- self-referrals or referrals from peers

- information from internal and external assessments

5.5 Student rights and responsibilities

All members of our school community have a right to experience a safe and supportive school environment. We expect that all students, staff, parents/guardians treat each other with respect. Our College Statement of Values, Student Code of Conduct and Parent Code of Conduct highlight the rights and responsibilities of our school community.

Students who may have a complaint or concern about something that has happened at school are encouraged to speak to their parents or carers and approach a trusted member of the College staff.

5.6 Student behavioral expectations

Djerriwarrh Community College has developed a range of strategies to promote engagement, positive behaviour and respectful relationships for all students in our school.

Behavioural expectations of students, staff and parents/guardians are based on our school's Statement of Values, Student Code of Conduct and Parent Code of Conduct. Student bullying behaviour will be responded to consistently with Bullying, Harassment and Cyber Bullying Prevention Policy and Procedure and preventative measures are put in place.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Djerriwarrh Community College will be guided by the College Behaviour Management Policy and Procedure, informing parents/guardians about the inappropriate behaviour and the disciplinary action taken by College staff.

Disciplinary measures may be used as part of a staged response to inappropriate behaviour in combination with other engagement and support strategies to ensure that factors that may have contributed to the student's behaviour are identified and addressed. Disciplinary measures at our

school will be applied fairly and consistently. Students will always be provided with an opportunity to be heard.

Suspension and expulsion are measures of last resort.

Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school and will not be used in any circumstance.

5.7 Engaging with Parents/Guardians

Djerriwarrh Community College values the input of parents and guardians.

We work hard to create successful partnerships with parents and guardians by:

- ensuring that all parent/ guardians have access to the College policies and procedures, available on our school website, Compass or at the College Reception
- maintaining an open, respectful line of communication between parent/guardians and staff
- providing parent/guardian volunteer opportunities so that families can contribute to school activities
- coordinating resources and services from the community for families

5.8 Evaluation

Djerriwarrh Community College will collect data each year to understand the frequency and types of wellbeing issues that are experienced by our students so that we can measure the success or otherwise of our school based strategies and identify emerging trends or needs.

Sources of data that will be assessed on an annual basis include:

- student survey data
- incidents data
- school reports
- parent survey
- case management

6. Responsibilities

The Principal is responsible for ensuring:

- that the implementation of the Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy is fair, transparent and non-discriminatory;
- this policy is implemented in accordance with commonwealth and state privacy legislation; and
- School values, philosophy and vision

7. Communication

This Policy is available on the College website, Compass and hard copies can be obtained from the College Reception.

8. Associated documents

Associated policies and procedures	Child Safety Policy
	Duty of Care Policy
	Behaviour Management Policy
	Information Communication Technology User Policy
	Restrictive Intervention and Seclusion Policy and Procedure
	Bullying Prevention Policy
	Supervision Procedure
	Internet Use Policy
	Smoke Free Environment Policy
	SunSmart Policy
	Health and Safety Policy
Other associated documents Internal	Student Code of Conduct
	Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct
	Acceptable Use of the Internet Agreement
	Student Behaviour Management Plan
Relevant legislation	*Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)*
	Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Cth)
	Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
	Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth)
	The Racial Hatred Act 1995 (Cth)
	The Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)
	Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)
	Child Wellbeing and Safety Regulations 2017 (Vic)
	Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)
	Disability Act 2006 (Vic)
	Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 (Vic)
Other associated documents External	VRQA Guidelines to the Minimum Standards and Requirements for School Registration

9. Issuance and approval

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