

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Warrnambool Primary School.

OUR COMMITMENT

At Warrnambool Primary School, every student has the right to feel **safe, included, respected and ready to learn**.

Our Student Code of Conduct supports our school vision:

Empowering students to thrive, belong and shape a better future.

Our school community is guided by our values of:

Respect | Active Learning | Inclusion

We recognise that positive student behaviour is supported through strong relationships, explicit teaching of expectations, consistent responses, student voice and agency, and partnerships between students, staff and families.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

We expect all students to:

Be Respectful

- Speak and behave respectfully towards students, staff, visitors and members of the community.
- Listen to others and allow everyone to have a voice.
- Respect different cultures, backgrounds, abilities, identities, beliefs and opinions.
- Use appropriate language and behaviour.
- Respect school property, personal belongings and the environment.

Be an Active Learner

- Attend school regularly and be ready to learn.
- Participate positively in classroom and school activities.
- Follow reasonable instructions from staff.
- Take responsibility for their learning, behaviour and choices.
- Allow others to learn without disruption.
- Seek assistance when they need help.

Be Inclusive

- Include others in learning, play and school activities.
- Treat others fairly and with dignity.
- Respect individual differences.
- Support others to feel that they belong.
- Never deliberately exclude, intimidate, harass or discriminate against another person.

Be Safe

- Follow school and classroom safety expectations.
- Keep hands, feet and objects to themselves.
- Use equipment and facilities appropriately.
- Report unsafe behaviour, bullying, hazards or concerns to a trusted adult.
- Follow staff directions during emergency, evacuation, lockdown and other safety procedures.

STUDENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the right to:

- Feel safe and supported at school.
- Be treated fairly and respectfully.
- Learn in an environment that supports their educational progress.
- Have their individual needs recognised and supported.
- Have their voice heard and be involved in decisions that affect them, where appropriate.
- Be treated with dignity and without discrimination, bullying, harassment or violence.
- Have reasonable adjustments provided where required to support their participation and inclusion.

Students have the responsibility to:

- Treat others with respect and dignity.
- Follow reasonable instructions and school expectations.
- Participate in learning to the best of their ability.
- Take responsibility for their behaviour and its impact on others.
- Help maintain a safe, inclusive and positive learning environment.
- Respect the rights, property and wellbeing of others.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR AND ENGAGEMENT

Warrnambool Primary School uses a **positive, proactive and inclusive approach to student behaviour**.

We explicitly teach students what positive behaviour looks like across different school settings. Staff provide clear expectations, positive feedback, encouragement and appropriate support to assist students to engage successfully in learning and school life.

Where students experience difficulty meeting expectations, staff will seek to understand the underlying needs and circumstances contributing to the behaviour and provide appropriate support.

Responses to behaviour will be **proportionate, reasonable, fair and consistent**, while recognising that every student is different.

RESPONDING TO BEHAVIOUR CONCERNS

When behaviour does not meet school expectations, the school will respond in accordance with Department of Education policies and procedures.

Responses may include:

- reminding and reteaching expectations;
- providing additional support or reasonable adjustments;
- restorative conversations;
- problem-solving and reflection;
- changes to routines, learning environments or supports;
- communication with parents/carers;
- individual behaviour support strategies or plans;
- referral to appropriate wellbeing or specialist support;
- consequences that are reasonable and proportionate to the behaviour; and
- disciplinary action where required.

The response will consider the **student's age, developmental stage, individual circumstances, disability, additional learning needs and the nature and seriousness of the behaviour.**

Students will be provided with appropriate opportunities to understand what occurred, have their perspective heard and participate in repairing relationships where appropriate.

BULLYING, HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE

Warrnambool Primary School does not tolerate:

- bullying or cyberbullying;
- physical violence;
- threatening or intimidating behaviour;
- harassment;
- discrimination;
- racist behaviour;
- sexual harassment or inappropriate sexual behaviour;
- deliberate exclusion or social intimidation;
- property damage or theft; or
- behaviour that places another person at risk of harm.

Bullying is **repeated unreasonable behaviour that is intended to cause harm or distress and involves a real or perceived power imbalance.**

A single incident of unacceptable behaviour may not meet the definition of bullying but will still be addressed appropriately.

Students are encouraged to report concerns to a trusted adult. Reports will be taken seriously and responded to in accordance with Department of Education policy and school procedures.

ONLINE BEHAVIOUR AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Students are expected to use digital technologies safely, responsibly and respectfully.

This includes:

- using school devices and digital platforms appropriately;
- protecting passwords and personal information;
- communicating respectfully online;

- not taking, sharing or distributing photographs, videos or recordings of others without appropriate permission;
- not using technology to bully, threaten, harass or embarrass others; and
- reporting inappropriate or unsafe online behaviour to a trusted adult.

Online behaviour that occurs outside school may still be addressed by the school where it impacts on student wellbeing, safety, relationships or the orderly operation of the school.

INCLUSION AND REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Warrnambool Primary School is committed to an **inclusive education environment** where every student is supported to participate, learn and belong.

We recognise that students may require different supports to achieve positive engagement and behaviour.

Where appropriate, the school will work collaboratively with students, parents/carers and relevant professionals to identify and implement **reasonable adjustments, targeted supports and individualised strategies**.

Student behaviour will be considered in the context of the student's individual circumstances and educational needs.

STUDENT VOICE AND AGENCY

Students are encouraged to contribute to a positive school culture.

Students may:

- express their views respectfully;
- contribute to classroom and school decisions where appropriate;
- participate in student leadership opportunities;
- raise concerns with trusted adults;
- participate in restorative conversations; and
- contribute ideas about how our school can be safer, more inclusive and supportive.

Student voice will be considered alongside the school's responsibilities for student safety, wellbeing, learning and orderly operation.

WORKING WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

Parents and carers are important partners in supporting student engagement, wellbeing and learning.

The school will communicate with parents/carers when appropriate and work collaboratively to:

- understand concerns;
- identify factors affecting student engagement or behaviour;
- develop appropriate support strategies;
- monitor progress; and
- review strategies where required.

Parents and carers are expected to communicate respectfully with students, staff and other members of the school community and support the school's expectations and processes.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

All staff at Warrnambool Primary School are expected to:

- model respectful and inclusive behaviour;
- establish clear and consistent expectations;
- explicitly teach and reinforce positive behaviours;
- provide a safe and supportive learning environment;
- respond to behaviour in a fair, reasonable and proportionate manner;
- consider individual student needs and circumstances;
- provide appropriate reasonable adjustments and supports;
- listen to student voice;
- maintain professional relationships and boundaries; and
- work collaboratively with families and relevant professionals where appropriate.

SERIOUS OR UNSAFE BEHAVIOUR

Some behaviours require an immediate response because they may place students, staff or other members of the school community at risk.

These may include serious physical violence, threats of violence, significant damage to property, possession or use of prohibited items, serious harassment or other behaviour that creates a significant safety risk.

The school will take appropriate action consistent with **Department of Education policy, legislation and procedural fairness requirements**.

Where required, the school may involve parents/carers, Department of Education staff or relevant external agencies.

OUR SHARED COMMITMENT

At Warrnambool Primary School, we believe that positive behaviour is built through **relationships, high expectations, explicit teaching, inclusion and consistent support**.

We want every student to:

Thrive. Belong. Shape a better future.

Together, students, staff and families share responsibility for creating a school where everyone feels safe, respected, included and ready to learn.

MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This Code of Conduct should be read alongside relevant Victorian Department of Education policies and procedures relating to student engagement, behaviour, bullying prevention, inclusion, wellbeing,

student safety, discrimination, suspension and expulsion, and the school's local policies and procedures.

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

Annually or as required following changes to Department of Education policy or legislation.