SAFE ENVIRONMENTS POLICY

Rationale/Purpose:
Schools should be a safe place for everyone including students, staff, families and members of the local community. The involvement and commitment of the whole school community is required to achieve a culture in which safe and respectful schools are everyone’s concern and responsibility. Students have a fundamental right to learn in a safe, supportive environment and to be treated with respect. School staff also have the right to teach, work and participate in an environment that is safe and supportive. Similarly, parents and other local community members have a right to feel safe, supported and respected in the school context.

Guidelines:
Leadership and staff acknowledge the importance of an environment that contributes to the health and wellbeing of all staff and students.

This policy confirms our commitment to:

• providing a safe, inclusive and empowering school environment for students, families, staff and visitors.
• delivering safety education in one or more learning key areas of the curriculum as a part of a whole school approach to health and wellbeing.
• ensuring families, students and staff are key partners in promoting a safe environment.

As a health promoting school, we will promote the safety and wellbeing of children, staff and families through learning, policies, creating a safe and healthy physical and social environment, and developing community links and partnerships.

Implementation:

• Staff, students, parents and members of the local community will have access to this policy via our school’s website.
• If a student is suspected of being at risk of or experiencing social, emotional, behavioural or bullying difficulties, this will be reported to a member of the principal class team, who will report this belief to the Department of Human Services (DHS).
• The school provides a welcoming and inclusive physical environment, which reflects the diversity and interests of the students, families and staff.
• The school ensures the use of appropriate and properly fitted protective equipment during physical activity to reduce risk of injury.
• The school takes action to minimise hazards from road traffic, particularly during pick up, drop off periods and other high risk times.
• The school provides a safe, inclusive and empowering social environment that promotes a culture of respect, fairness and equality.
• The school implements strategies to promote positive and responsible behaviour and to prevent and respond to bullying, discrimination and harassment.
• Staff and families recognise that they are role models and are encouraged to demonstrate behaviours that promote safety.
- Social and emotional learning, safety education and related health messages are incorporated across the curriculum from Foundation to year 6 and are delivered in one or more key learning areas of the curriculum.
- The school provides a curriculum that actively engages and builds students’ self-awareness, social awareness, responsible decision making, self-management and relationship skills.
- Collaborative group activities that encourage inclusion, participation, team-work and cooperation are incorporated in the curriculum.
- Staff are supported to access resources, tools and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote safe environments and behaviours.
- Families, students and staff are key partners in developing and supporting safety initiatives and are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies on a regular basis to support safety in the school and at home.
- Students are engaged in developing and implementing safety initiatives via our Student Representative Council (SRC).
- Staff are encouraged to develop competencies to facilitate engagement of families and students from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Staff are encouraged to work with local health professionals, services and organisations to increase the school’s capacity to deliver safety initiatives and promote safe environments.
- The school works with local government and Wyndham City Council to minimise safety hazards in the surrounding area.

**Evaluation:**

Ratified by Bellbridge School Council – October 2015
Principal: Debbie Clancy
School Council President: Ellisa Cole