



Rosewood Downs Primary School

Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy



HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Rosewood Downs Primary School on 03 9795 3744 or rosewood.downs.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students and members of our school community understand:

- (a) our commitment to providing a safe 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.

Rosewood Downs Primary School is committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment for all students. We understand that students reach their full potential only when they are happy, healthy and safe, and that a positive school culture, where student participation is encouraged and valued, helps to engage students and support them in their learning. Our school acknowledges that student wellbeing and student learning outcomes are closely linked.

The objective of this policy is to support our school to create and maintain a safe, supportive and inclusive school environment consistent with our school's values.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions.

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2. School values, philosophy and vision
3. Wellbeing and engagement strategies
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POLICY

1. School profile

Rosewood Downs Primary School is a dynamic and inclusive government school located in the heart of Dandenong North, Victoria. We proudly serve a diverse community of approximately **290 students** across **13 classes**, offering a rich and rigorous educational experience built on high expectations, deep knowledge, and daily improvement.

At RDPS, our vision is clear: we strive to get 1% better every day, knowing that consistent growth leads to remarkable success. This mindset underpins our commitment to excellence in both academic achievement and student wellbeing.

We are proud to offer a **knowledge-rich curriculum** that ensures all students become literate, numerate, and capable of thinking critically about the world around them. Our learning environments are calm, purposeful, and focused designed to maximise learning time and foster a strong sense of belonging. As a result, our student engagement and behaviour are exceptional, and our classrooms are places of deep learning and high achievement.

In addition to core subjects, our students participate in a comprehensive range of **specialist programs**, including:

- **Physical Education**
- **Visual Arts**
- **Performing Arts**
- **Music**
- **School Pride**
- **Auslan (Australian Sign Language)**

These programs enrich our students' experiences and develop their creativity, confidence, and sense of identity.

Our school is also known for its innovative approach to behaviour and wellbeing. Guided by The Rosewood Way, every student understands and lives by our values. Our whole-school approach to positive behaviour ensures that every child feels safe, respected, and ready to learn. This has led to exceptional student voice and wellbeing data, including over 90% **positive endorsement** in the Attitudes to School Survey across key indicators such as inclusion, teacher support, bullying management, and effective teaching time.

We are committed to ensuring every child receives high-quality, evidence-based instruction. From our structured phonics approach (UFLI) in Prep to Year 2, to our literature- and knowledge-rich humanities and science units in Years 3–6, our curriculum is thoughtfully designed to build content knowledge, vocabulary, and academic success.

At RDPS, we are more than a school—we are a community that believes in every child, values continuous improvement, and celebrates the joy of learning. We look forward to welcoming you to our school.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

At Rosewood Downs Primary School, our mission is to achieve 1% improvement every day, knowing that small, consistent gains lead to extraordinary growth. We are committed to delivering a knowledge-rich curriculum that builds the foundational literacy and numeracy skills all students need, while empowering them to solve problems, think critically, and engage thoughtfully with the world around them. Our school is a place where high expectations, deep knowledge, and daily progress come together to prepare every student for success—now and in the future.

At RDPS we believe in developing students who can think critically, ask questions, inquire and solve problems. In order to develop students who can challenge ideas we believe it is vital to ensure we teach a Knowledge Rich curriculum that allows students the ability to bring schematic background knowledge to the problems they will solve!

Our students are at the heart of our success. At RDPS, behaviour is exceptional—because of high expectations and teaching behaviour as a curriculum. Our values are lived every day. *The Rosewood Way* is more than a slogan; it's a shared language of respect, responsibility and growth. As a result, our learning environments are calm, orderly, and focused—creating the ideal setting for deep, purposeful learning.

At Rosewood Downs Primary School, our community chosen school values are:

- ★ Respect and Responsibility
- ★ Diversity and Inclusion
- ★ Positivity and Persistence
- ★ Safety and Success

Wellbeing and engagement strategies

Rosewood Downs Primary School has developed a range of strategies to promote engagement, an inclusive and safe environment, positive behaviour, and respectful relationships for all students in our school. We recognise the importance of student friendships and peer support in helping children and students feel safe and less isolated. We acknowledge that some students may need extra social, emotional or educational support at school, and that the needs of students will change over time as they grow and learn.

Universal

- High and consistent expectations of all staff, students and parents and carers.
- Prioritising positive relationships between staff and students, recognising the fundamental role this plays in building and sustaining student wellbeing.
- Creating a culture that is inclusive, engaging and supportive and that embraces and celebrates diversity and empowers all students to participate and feel valued.
- Welcoming all parents/carers and being responsive to them as partners in learning.
- Analysing and being responsive to a range of school data such as attendance, Attitudes to School Survey, parent survey data, student management data and school level assessment data.
- Delivering a broad curriculum including specialist programs in Physical Education, Visual Arts, Music and Performing Arts.
- Teachers at Rosewood Downs Primary School use an agreed instructional framework to ensure an explicit, common and shared model of instruction to ensure that evidenced-based teaching practices are incorporated into all lessons.
- Teachers at Rosewood Downs Primary School adopt a broad 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 and the Department of Education.
- Our school's Statement of Values and School Philosophy are incorporated into our curriculum and promoted to students, staff and parents so that they are shared and celebrated as the foundation of our school community.
- Carefully planned transition programs support students moving into different stages of their schooling.
- Acknowledging positive behaviour and student achievement in the classroom, and formally in school assemblies and communication to parents.
- Monitoring student attendance and implement attendance improvement strategies at a whole-school, cohort and individual level.
- Students have the opportunity to contribute and provide feedback through the junior School Council and other forums. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Assistant Principal and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.
- Creating opportunities for cross-age connections amongst students through the prep buddy program, athletics, music programs and peer support programs.
- All students are welcome to self-refer to the Student Wellbeing Coordinator, Assistant Principal and Principal if they would like to discuss a particular issue or need support of any kind. We are proud to have an 'open door' policy where students and staff are partners in learning.

We engage in school wide positive behaviour support with our staff and students, which includes programs such as:

- UR Strong
- The Rosewood Way
- Opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, clubs, recess and lunchtime activities)
- Buddy programs, peer support programs
- Measures are in place to empower our school community to identify, report and address inappropriate and harmful behaviours such as racism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination or harassment.

Targeted

- Each unit has a Unit Manager, who monitors the health and wellbeing of students in their year, and act as a point of contact for students who may need additional support
- Koorie students are supported to engage fully in their education, in a positive learning environment that understands and appreciates the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture – refer to our [insert name of any other school documentation you have in place outlining the school strategies to support Koorie students]
- Our English as a second language students are supported through our EAL program, and all cultural and linguistically diverse students are supported to feel safe and included in our school including through [insert any specific strategies you have in place to support CALD students]
- We support learning and wellbeing outcomes of students from refugee background through [insert any specific strategies or measures you have in place to support students from refugee background]
- We provide a positive and respectful learning environment for our students who identify as LGBTIQ+ and follow the Department’s policy on [LGBTIQ+ Student Support](#)
- All students in Out of Home Care are supported in accordance with the Department’s policy on [Supporting Students in Out-of-Home Care](#) including being appointed a Learning Mentor, having an Individual Education Plan and a Student Support Group (SSG) and being referred to Student Support Services for an Educational Needs Assessment.
- Students with a disability are supported to be able to engage fully in their learning and school activities in accordance with the Department’s policy on [Students with Disability](#), such as through reasonable adjustments to support access to learning programs, consultation with families and where required, student support groups and individual education plans.
- Wellbeing and Leadership will undertake health promotion and social skills development in response to needs identified by student wellbeing data, classroom teachers or other school staff each year.
- Staff will apply a trauma-informed approach to working with students who have experienced trauma.
- Students enrolled under the Department’s international student program are supported in accordance with our legal obligations and Department policy and guidelines at: [International Student Program](#)

Individual

- [Student Support Groups](#)
- [Individual Education Plans](#)
- [Behaviour – Students](#)
- [Behaviour Support Plans](#)
- [Student Support Services](#)

as well as to other Department programs and services such as:

- [Program for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Mental health toolkit](#)
- [headspace](#)
- [Navigator](#)
- [LOOKOUT](#)

Rosewood Downs Primary School implements a range of strategies that support and promote individual engagement. These can include:

- Building constructive relationships with students at risk or students who are vulnerable due to complex individual circumstances
- Meeting with student and their parent/carer to talk about how best to help the student engage with school
- Developing an Individual Education Plan and/or a Behaviour Support Plan
- Considering if any environmental changes need to be made, for example changing the classroom set-up

- Referring the student to:
 - School-based wellbeing supports
 - Student Support Services
 - Appropriate external supports such as Orange Door, child and adolescent mental health services or ChildFirst

Where necessary the school will support the student's family to engage by:

- being responsive and sensitive to changes in the student's circumstances and health and wellbeing
- collaborating, where appropriate and with the support of the student and their family, 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 family
- engaging with our regional Koorie Engagement Support Officers
- running regular Student Support Group meetings for students:
 - with a disability
 - in Out of Home Care
 - with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.

3. Identifying students in need of support

Rosewood Downs Primary School is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. The Student Wellbeing and Leadership team plays a significant role in developing and implementing strategies to help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Rosewood Downs Primary School will utilise the following information and tools to identify students in need of extra 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
- attendance, detention and suspension data
- engagement with families
- self-referrals

4. 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 and carers treat each other with respect and dignity. Our school's Statement of Values highlights the rights and responsibilities of members of our community.

Students have the right to:

- participate fully in their education
- feel safe, secure and happy at school
- learn in an environment free from bullying, harassment, violence, racism, discrimination or intimidation
- express their ideas, feelings and concerns.

Students have the responsibility to:

- participate fully in their educational program
- display positive behaviours that demonstrate respect for themselves, their peers, their teachers and members of the school community
- respect the right of others to learn.

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 teacher or a member of the school leadership team. Further information about raising a complaint or concern is available in our Complaints Policy.

5. Student behavioural expectations and management

Behavioural expectations of students are grounded in our school's Statement of Values/Student code of conduct.

Violence, bullying, and other offensive and harmful behaviours such as racism, harassment and discrimination will not be tolerated and will be managed in accordance with this policy. Bullying will be managed in accordance with our Bullying Prevention Policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Rosewood Downs Primary School will institute a staged response, consistent with the Department's policies on behaviour, discipline and student wellbeing and engagement. Where appropriate, parents will be informed about the inappropriate behaviour and the disciplinary action taken by teachers and other school staff.

Our school considers, explores and implement positive and non-punitive interventions to support student behaviour before considering disciplinary measures such as detention, withdrawal of privileges or withdrawal from class.

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.

Disciplinary measures that may be applied include:

- warning a student that their behaviour is inappropriate using the 4R's approach
- teacher controlled consequences such as moving a student in a classroom or other reasonable and proportionate responses to misbehaviour
- withdrawal of privileges
- removal by Leadership
- detentions
- in-school suspension
- behaviour support and intervention meetings
- suspension
- expulsion

Suspension, expulsion and restrictive interventions are measures of last resort and may only be used in situations consistent with Department policy, available at:

- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/suspensions/policy>
- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/expulsions/policy>
- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/restraint-seclusion/policy>

In line with Ministerial Order 1125, no student aged 8 or younger will be expelled without the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Education.

The Principal of Rosewood Downs Primary School is responsible for ensuring all suspensions and expulsions are recorded on CASES21.

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

6. Engaging with families

Rosewood Downs Primary School values the input of parents and carers, and we will strive to support families to engage in their child's learning and build their capacity as active learners. We aim to be partners in learning with parents and carers in our school community.

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

- ensuring that all parents have access to our school policies and procedures, available on our school website
- maintaining an open, respectful line of communication between parents and staff, supported by our Communicating with School Staff policy.
- providing parent volunteer opportunities so that families can contribute to school activities
- involving families with homework and other curriculum-related activities
- involving families in school decision making
- coordinating resources and services from the community for families
- including families in Student Support Groups and developing individual plans for students.

7. Evaluation

Rosewood Downs Primary School 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
- CASES21, including attendance and absence data
- SOCS

Rosewood Downs Primary School will also regularly monitor available data dashboards to ensure any wellbeing or engagement issues are acted upon in a timely manner and any intervention occurs as soon as possible.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

Our school will also ensure it follows the mandatory parent/carers notification requirements with respect to suspensions and expulsions outlined in the Department's policies at:

- [Suspension process](#)
- [Expulsions – Decision](#)

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The following Department of Education policies are relevant to this Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy:

- [Attendance](#)
- [Student Engagement](#)

- [Child Safe Standards](#)
- [Supporting Students in Out-of-Home Care](#)
- [Students with Disability](#)
- [LGBTIQA+ Student Support](#)
- [Behaviour – Students](#)
- [Suspensions](#)
- [Expulsions](#)
- [Restraint and Seclusion](#)

The following school policies are also relevant to this Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy:

- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- [Bullying Prevention Policy](#)
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- [Statement of Values and School Philosophy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	21/04/2026
Consultation	21/04/2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	Before 21/04/2028