

Mullauna College

Student Engagement & Wellbeing Policy

STATEMENT

Mullauna College is a middle-sized co-educational secondary school in Mitcham. Student enrolment is around 500 with slightly more boys than girls enrolled.

Our vision for our students is that they will graduate as responsible young people who value and respect learning. We value the pursuit of excellence and strive to provide opportunities for all students to experience success and contribute positively to their community. The College motto, *Success through Learning Together*, reflects our belief that excellence is best achieved when students, teachers and parents work in partnership.

A defining characteristic of the College is its safe and harmonious atmosphere, which fosters a high standard of student behaviour, marked by self-discipline and consideration for others.

Mullauna College has a strong tradition of academic excellence, active student leadership and participation, as well as outstanding Music, Sporting and Debating Programs. The College programs offer breadth of pathways and Year 10 students can access VCE subjects. Mullauna also delivers an International Student Program.

The College implements programs designed to promote student connectedness, morale and attendance. The use of technology is embedded into learning & teaching programs. These programs are embedded in the College curriculum. They include:

- Camps & Excursions
- Leadership and resilience training
- Middle Years Programs – Challenge, iLearn, Skillz
- Well-being Workshops
- Learning Conferences

An extensive student leadership program allows students to contribute to the decision-making processes of the College as well as learning the value of leadership and commitment to community.

The school is divided into a Senior School (10-12) and a Middle School (7-9). Each year level is overseen by a Year Level Co-ordinator (YLC) who establishes positive relationships with students and promotes a sense of unity amongst the students of that year level. In addition there is a Well-Being Co-ordinator and Student Adolescent Nurse who works closely with the YLC and teachers to address the needs of individual students.

At Mullauna, we believe a student learns best when the family and school are working in partnership with the common goal of achieving the best possible educational outcomes. To that end, our school has an online parent portal called Compass School Manager. This portal is designed to provide parents with secure, direct access to everything parents need to know about their child's education.

PURPOSE

The College values:

- **Learning** as its main purpose
- **Creativity** in approaching challenges
- **Personal integrity** in dealing with others
- **Accepting responsibility** for one's own actions
- **Perseverance** in achieving personal and community goals
- **Leadership** and the willingness to accept responsibility for others
- **Citizenship** through contribution to the College and wider community.

The following personnel and policies exist in the College to support students in accessing their rights and accepting their responsibilities.

Personnel	Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year Level Coordinators• Student Well-being Coordinators• Pathways Co-ordinator• EAL Support• Integration Aides• Guidance Officer• Social Worker• Adolescent Health Nurse• Attendance Officer• Nunawading Youth Ministry• Student Focus Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Code of Conduct• Teaching and Learning• Homework• Promotion• Equal Opportunity• Anti-Bullying & Anti-Harassment• Cyberbullying• Assessment and reporting• Recognition of Achievement

GUIDELINES

Every member of the Mullauna community has a right to fully participate in an educational environment that is safe, supportive and inclusive. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. Mullauna College prides itself on providing a safe and supportive learning environment to ensure optimum personal development and educational excellence for all students.

Behaviours, such as bullying and harassment, which in any way prevent another person from enjoying these rights, are not tolerated at this College.

Members of Mullauna College are required to act in accordance with the provisions of the *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*. This Act sets out the types or grounds of discrimination that are unlawful and aims to promote community recognition and acceptance of the equality of men and women, and the equality of people of all races, regardless of their religious or political convictions, their impairments or their age.

The College also supports the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 which

outlines a vision of human rights for all Victorians

Mullauna College provides assistance for students with disabilities consistent with its obligation under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)*. The standards under this Act cover enrolment, participation, curriculum development, student support services, and harassment and victimisation.

The College makes ‘reasonable adjustments’ to accommodate students with disabilities. An adjustment is a measure or action taken to assist a student with disability to participate in education and training on the same basis as other students. An adjustment is reasonable if it does this while taking into account the student’s learning needs and balancing the interests of all parties affected, including those of the student with the disability, the education provider, staff and other students.

The DDA and the Education Standards do not require changes to be made if this would impose unjustifiable hardship to a person or organisation.

Rights and Responsibilities of Students

Rights	Responsibilities
<p>Students have a right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work in a secure environment where, without intimidation, bullying (including cyber-bullying) or harassment, they are able to fully develop their talents, interests and ambitions participate fully in the school’s educational program 	<p>Students have a responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> participate fully and positively in the school’s educational program and to attend regularly demonstrate respect for the rights of others, including the right to learn take increasing responsibility for their own learning as they progress through the school

Rights and Responsibilities of Parents/Carers

Rights	Responsibilities
<p>Parents/Carers have a right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> expect their children will be educated in a secure environment in which care, courtesy and respect for the rights of others are encouraged be informed in a timely manner of their child’s progress in learning 	<p>Parents/Carers have a responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promote positive educational outcomes for their children by taking an active interest in their child’s educational progress and by modelling positive behaviours ensure their child’s regular attendance engage in regular and constructive communication with school staff regarding their child’s learning support the school in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students

Rights and Responsibilities of Teachers

Rights	Responsibilities
<p>Teachers have a right to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expect that they will be able to teach in an orderly and cooperative environment • be informed, within Privacy requirements, about matters relating to students that will affect the teaching and learning program for that student 	<p>Teachers have a responsibility to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fairly, reasonably and consistently, implement the engagement policy • know the capacity and potential of their students • plan and assess for effective learning • engage in regular and constructive communication with parents regarding their child's learning • create and maintain safe and challenging learning environments • use a range of teaching strategies and resources to engage all students in effective learning

Bullying and Harassment

This includes:

- teasing or ridiculing others
- making rude and unwanted personal comments
- offensive body language
- pushing, hitting, kicking or pinching
- making rude gestures
- malicious gossip
- mischievous complaints
- racist or sexist comments
- exclusion
- supporting the bullying or harassment of others
- telephone or cyberbullying
- writing abusive notes or letters
- writing graffiti about someone or their family
- sexual harassment
- damaging another person's personal property

In addressing bullying and harassment, College policies define the responsibilities of staff, students and parents:

Responsibilities of staff

- To inform students as to what constitutes bullying and harassment
- To implement a *Bullying Survey* and provide counselling to students who are identified in the survey
- To provide workshops that focus on responsible behaviour
- To model positive behaviours towards all members of the College community
- To deal with all reported and observed incidences of bullying or harassment

Responsibilities of students

- To treat other members of the College community with respect
- To help someone who is being bullied or harassed

- To approach a staff member or an appropriate peer if they, or someone else, is being bullied or harassed – either at school or on the way to or from school
- To actively disapprove of bullying

Responsibilities of parents

- To monitor their child for signs of bullying. These signs can include:
 - uncharacteristic aggressiveness at home
 - reluctance to go to school
 - nightmares
 - lowered self-esteem and negative statements about self
 - tearfulness
 - loneliness
- To actively support the College in preventing bullying by:
 - discussing bullying with their children and assuring them that something can be done about it
 - encouraging their children to approach a member of staff if they are being bullied or harassed or see others being bullied or harassed
 - contacting the College if they believe that any student might be being bullied or harassed
 - co-operate with the College in addressing their own child's behaviour if that behaviour involves bullying and harassment

Shared expectations

Effective schools share high expectations for the whole-school community. The expectations of the Mullauna community include the following:

- the College will offer an appropriate, relevant and challenging curriculum that gives students the opportunity to experience success in their learning.
- teaching practices will be inclusive
- educational provision will be accessible for all students
- parent/carers will engage in a positive partnership with teachers to best support student achievement and success
- appropriate student services will be provided
- the diversity of the Mullauna community will be celebrated.

Student Code of Conduct

Student engagement, regular attendance and positive behaviours will be supported through relationship based whole-school and classroom practices, including:

- establishing predictable and fair classrooms and school environments
- providing personalised learning programs where appropriate for individual students
- empowering students by creating multiple opportunities for them to take responsibility and be involved in decision-making
- providing physical environments conducive to positive behaviours and effective engagement in learning

Inappropriate behaviours, including irregular attendance, will be responded to through a staged response, appropriate to the severity of the behaviour.

Broader support strategies will include, where appropriate:

- involving and supporting the parents/carers,

- involving the student wellbeing coordinator or careers coordinators
- mentoring and/or counselling
- convening student support group meetings – the student support group is an important component of the staged response for students facing difficulty with engagement, attendance or behaviour
- developing individualised flexible learning, behaviour or attendance plans
- providing broader educational programs, for example experiential learning, work education, camps/outdoor education/creative arts
- involving community support agencies.

Consequences for students breaching the Student Code of Conduct may include:

- withdrawal of privileges
- withdrawal from class if a student's behaviour significantly interferes with the rights of other students to learn or the capacity of a teacher to teach a class
- detention - teachers may require a student to finish school work that has not been completed in the regular classroom or to undertake additional or new work or duties at a reasonable time and place
convening a Student Support Group.
- suspension and expulsion, consistent with DET guidelines

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed every two years, with recommended changes being presented to College Council.

Reviewed: June, 2015

Date of next review: 2017 or as directed by DET