



Edenhope College

40-48 Lake Street (Locked Bag 1)
Edenhope VIC 3318

✉ edenhope.co@education.vic.gov.au

🌐 www.edenhope.vic.edu.au

☎ 03 5585 1277

EDENHOPE COLLEGE STUDENT WELLBEING AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office on 0355851277 or via email on edenhope.co@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.

Edenhope College 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.

CONTENTS

1. School profile
2. School values, philosophy and vision
3. Wellbeing and engagement strategies
4. Identifying students in need of support
5. Student rights and responsibilities
6. Student behavioural expectations and management
7. Engaging with families
8. Evaluation

POLICY

1. School profile

Edenhope College Profile

Edenhope College currently has approximately 110 students, with around 41 students in the primary school and 69 students in the secondary school. There are 31 staff members currently at Edenhope College, including 2 Principal Class, 2 Leading Teachers, 18 Teachers and 9 Education Support Class.

Teaching and Learning

- *There is a strong focus on Visible Learning – including learning intentions, success criteria and feedback.*
- *Curriculum provision is based on the Victorian Curriculum and includes:*
 - *a focus on Early Years Literacy and Numeracy*
 - *LOTE/Respectful Relationships from P-8 compulsory*
 - *Year 9 - 10 non-core elective program*
 - *Senior Pathways include the new VCE Vocational Major and the new Victorian Pathways Certificate (which replaces VCAL), with Vocational Education & Training in Schools studies at the Wimmera Trade Training Centres*
 - *access to further vocational programs, including:*
 - *School Based Apprenticeships*
 - *Structured Workplace Learning*
 - *Technology (Food, Textiles and Wood)*
 - *Visual Arts (Multi-media, Photography, Ceramics / Sculpture and Painting)*
 - *Performing Arts (Drama and Instrumental Music)*
 - *Animal / Agricultural Horticultural Studies, utilising the College Farm.*
 - *Extra curriculum options include the Advance Program (Year 9/10), The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme - Bronze, Silver & Gold levels (Years 10 - 12) and a sports program with opportunities for students to compete at district, state and national levels.*

Student Support and Engagement

We have a strong student support focus, including:

- *A dedicated wellbeing team, with a focus on addressing individual student needs.*
- *Regular student support group meetings for funded students or students who require modified curriculum programs*
- *An Academic Extension Program (AEP) for high achieving or disengaged students.*
- *A strong student voice focus, with a Student Voice Team, a Student Representative Council and student members on the School Council.*

The school accesses support professionals from the DET West Grampians regional office, including Primary Wellbeing Officer, Speech Pathologist, Social Worker and Visiting Teacher (Hearing).

2. School values, philosophy and vision

Our School's Statement of Values and School Philosophy is integral to the work that we do and is the foundation of our school community. Students, staff and members of our school community are encouraged to live and demonstrate our core values of being respectful, being safe and willing to learn.

Our school's vision is to empower students to reach their personal best, and fully equip them to contribute positively to society as happy, healthy young adults. Our motto that the students created is 'Dare to be Curious'

Edenhope College is a ChildSafe School

3. Wellbeing and engagement strategies

Our school has developed a range of strategies to promote engagement, an inclusive and safe environment, positive behaviour through our SWPBS program, 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.

Lunchtime activities are run for both primary and secondary students. The school library is open all recess and lunchtimes for a quieter space for those who choose.

A summary of the universal (whole of school), targeted (year group specific) and individual engagement strategies used by our school is included below:

- *high and consistent expectations of all staff, students and parents and carers*
- *prioritise 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*
- *we aim to deliver the broadest curriculum possible, including VET programs, VCE VM and VPC to ensure that students are able to choose subjects and programs that are tailored to their interests, strengths and aspirations*
- *teachers at Edenhope College use an instructional framework to ensure an explicit, common and shared model of curriculum delivery is incorporated into all lessons*
- *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 to support students moving into different stages of their schooling*
- *positive behaviour and student achievement is acknowledged in the classroom, and formally in school assemblies and communication to parents*
- *monitor student attendance and implement attendance improvement strategies at a whole-school, cohort and individual level*
- *students have the opportunity to contribute to and provide feedback on decisions about school operations through the Student Representative Council, SWPBS committee and students are represented on school council. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Home Group teacher, Sub-School Coordinator, Assistant Principal and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.*
- *create opportunities for cross—age connections and inclusion amongst students through school plays, buddy programs, lunchtime activities, music programs and an open library (at breaks), and our Hands-on Learning program*
- *all students are welcome to self-refer to the Student Wellbeing Coordinator, School Chaplain, Home Group teacher, Sub-School Coordinator, Assistant Principal and Principal if they would like to discuss a particular issue or feel as though they may 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 Respectful Relationships*
- *programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific needs or behaviour (i.e. anger management 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

Edenhope College is a ChildSafe School

- *each year group has a Year Level Homegroup Coordinator, a senior teacher responsible for their year, who monitor 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 Inclusion and Diversity Policy*
- *our English as a Second Language (ESL) students are supported through our EAL program, and all cultural and linguistically diverse students are supported to feel safe and included in our school*
- *Edenhope College is committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all its students, including LGBTI students [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 Learning 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 health staff 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*
- *all students from Year 10 and above will be assisted to develop a Career Action Plan, with targeted goals and support to plan for their future*

Individual

Edenhope College 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 Learning 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 council based youth and family services, other allied health professionals, headspace, child and adolescent mental health services or ChildFirst*
 - *Re-engagement programs such as Navigator*

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 Plans in collaboration with the student and their family*
- *engaging with our regional Koorie Engagement Support Officers*
- *running regular Student Support Group meetings for all students:*
 - *with a disability*

Edenhope College is a ChildSafe School

- *in Out of Home Care*
- *with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.*

4. Identifying students in need of support

Edenhope College is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. The Student Wellbeing team plays a significant role in developing and implementing strategies help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Edenhope College 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 or referrals from peers*

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 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.*

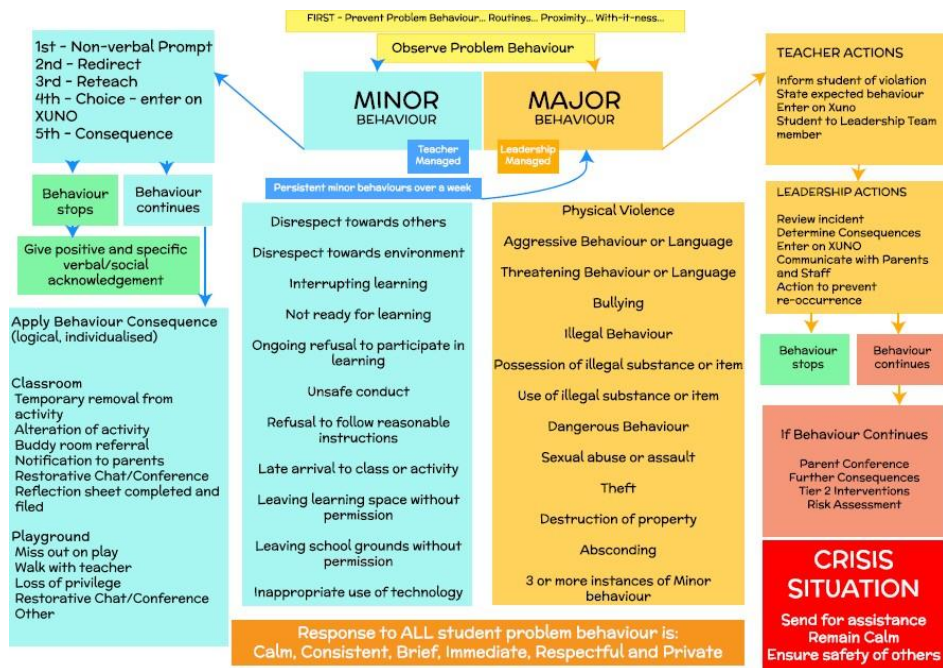
Students have the responsibility to:

- *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.

6. Student behavioural expectations and management

Behavioural expectations of students are grounded in our school's values 'Being Respectful, Being Safe and Willing to Learn'. Behaviour is also supported by our whole school approach to School Wide Positive Behaviours Support (SWPBS). Below is the school matrix that staff follow for breaches of behaviour.



Edenhope College also encourages staff to communicate positive behaviour/academic efforts home to parent/guardians.

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 school policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Edenhope College 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 implements 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
- teacher controlled consequences such as moving a student in a classroom or other reasonable and proportionate responses to misbehaviour
- withdrawal of privileges
- referral to the Home Group Teacher or Sub-school Coordinator
- restorative practices
- detentions (parent/guardians advised)
- behaviour support and intervention meetings (parent/guardians included)
- suspension
- expulsion

Edenhope College is a ChildSafe School

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 and Training.

The Principal of Edenhope College 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.

7. Engaging with families

Edenhope College 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.*

8. Evaluation

Edenhope 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*
- *SWPBS incidents data*
- *school reports*
- *parent survey*
- *case management*
- *CASES21, including attendance and absence data*
- *SOCS*

Edenhope College 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

Edenhope College is a ChildSafe School

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included in student diaries so that it is easily accessible to parents, carers and students
- 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 and Training 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](#)
- [LGBTIQ 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

<i>Policy last reviewed</i>	<i>28/11/2022</i>
<i>Consultation</i>	<i>Consultation took place with Edenhope College School Council Policy Committee and Edenhope College SCC</i>
<i>Approved by</i>	<i>Principal</i>
<i>Endorsed date</i>	<i>05/12/2022</i>
<i>Next scheduled review date</i>	<i>December 2024</i>