Warracknabeal Secondary College
School Engagement & Wellbeing Policy

Rationale:
Warracknabeal Secondary College is committed to ensuring every student has a safe and positive learning experience where they are engaged and supported to reach their full potential. In order to achieve our vision of equipping “every student to be able to choose a life that has meaning,” establishing a safe, inclusive and positive learning culture is a core responsibility of the school and every staff member. By focusing on our school values of respect, honesty, resilience, perseverance and excellence, we are committed to developing the whole student, to have the skills, character and mindset to choose a fully-engaged pathway.

Warracknabeal Secondary College is committed to child safety (Ministerial Order No. 870) and takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the safety of our students is paramount.

Aims:
WSC will take a proactive, positive, relationship-centred approach to engage students, with a clear and transparent staged response to misbehaviour to ensure a positive learning culture.

- Ensuring student safety
- Promoting a positive culture (Young Achiever Awards, student voice)
- Supporting vulnerable Students (including PSD and students with frequent absences)
- Challenging Behaviour (including Bullying and Harassment)
- Engaging families and community

Implementation:
Ensuring Student Safety
- A safe school environment is the responsibility of everyone in the school community. Any safety issue must be reported to the office so it can be documented and addressed. There is an OH&S team to ensure the safety of the school is maintained.
- All people should be able to operate in an environment free from bullying and harassment. To address this specific area, there is a separate ‘Bullying and Harassment’ policy.

Promoting a positive culture
- Teachers nominate students for a Young Achiever Award when demonstrating our school values (respect, excellence, honesty, perseverance and resilience) in order to reinforce a positive school culture. Students who achieve a certain number of awards, gain a levelled certificate and badge at a General Assembly, with a formal invitation for their parent/guardian to attend.
- Students are given an opportunity to elect their School Captains and can be a representative on the Student Representative Council. These members have regular meetings with the principal class, SRC coordinator and the School Council, where they can voice their ideas and concerns in order to improve the culture of the school.
- The school will promote pro-social values within the curriculum, newsletter and general assemblies. Pro-social values are those that promote inclusion, tolerance, and diversity. Any antisocial, racist, sexist, homophobic or xenophobic behaviours must be challenged and addressed.

Supporting Vulnerable Students
WSC will use a range of information to identify students who may need extra assistance, including: personal enrolment information, diagnosed disability, attendance, academic performance, student mapping tool, observed behaviours and any other information from families.

Support offered could come in the form of:
- Individual Education Plan (IEP): a document that outlines goals determined by the student in consultation with teachers and family. This can be recommended by the school or requested by the
student/family. All students with PSD (Program for students with a disability) funding or in Satellite VCAL (SVCAL) must have an IEP.

- **Literacy/Numeracy:** students identified with ‘catch-up funding’ based on their Year 5 Reading results in NAPLAN, will be placed in the Quick Smart program. Students who have identified issues with Literacy and Numeracy will be offered IEPs, differentiated support in the classroom and out-of-class-hours support.

- **Wellbeing support:** each level is allocated a coordinator who is available to support students and follow up on concerns. If it is of a nature outside of the skills of the coordinator, there is additional support through the principal class, chaplain and student wellbeing worker. Other supports can be offered with parent/guardian permission through the student support service officers (SSSO) and local counsellors/psychologists.

- **Student Support Group (SSG):** Students who are engaged in a range of services may require a SSG meeting with all parties to ensure a coordinated approach to support. All students with PSD funding are required to have a SSG meeting once a term to discuss the allocation of funding.

- **Behaviour Support Plan (BSP):** Students who are exhibiting dangerous behaviours (for themselves or others) may require a BSP to ensure the safety of school environment. These plans outline exhibiting behaviours, goals, and support strategies to improve behaviour.

- **Financial Hardship:** Students and families experience financial hardship will be supported by the school to ensure their educational program is not affected. Students will be provided with a uniform, support with textbooks and a device can be borrowed if required.

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**Maintaining a positive learning culture:**

**Expectations of students:**

- Students are resilient
  - Students take responsibility for their own learning. They prioritise their learning and attend all timetabled classes on time (unless there is a valid excuse). They submit work on time and ensure they use their class time effectively to seek help on the require work and catch-up on work missed due to any absences. They are able to demonstrate and develop self-control and the discipline to manage their emotions and impulses.

- Students respect others, property, the college and the law
  - Others: Students are to respect other people and avoid causing harm or distress. They must respect the learning opportunities of others and not disrupt the learning environment (following teacher instructions, listening to others, etc.).
  - Property: Students are to take care of the physical environment by not damaging property or littering.
  - The College: Students are required to be in full school uniform and to represent the school values whilst in uniform or on school business.
  - The Law: Students are not to bring any illegal substances (cigarettes, drugs or alcohol) or any other dangerous and inappropriate material (pornography, weapons, chemicals, etc.)

Teachers will use reflection, relationships, rigour and rewards to establish a positive learning culture in their classrooms. For students who are unable to meet the expectations of the teacher, a staged response including consequences will be used. The stages are: remind, redirect, relocate, remove and reflection room. More detail of this can be found in the Positive Learning Culture policy.

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**Engaging Families and Community**

- WSC will at all times make every attempt to keep families informed about their child’s progress. Teachers will communicate with families via phone, letters and Edmodo to form a partnership to help improve student progress.

- WSC is embedded in the community and will make every attempt to be involved in community initiatives and events. Forming partnerships between WSC and community service organisations ensures a holistic approach to developing our school community.

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**Evaluation:** This policy will be reviewed annually.
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