



Bourchier St. Primary School



*A safe & happy
environment for all*

*Student
Engagement Policy*



Dear Parents and Guardians

The Bouchier Street School community sees student wellbeing, discipline and pastoral care as a positive and cooperative effort involving Teachers, Parents and Students at our school.

We are committed to educating all students to be life long learners and responsible citizens within our rapidly changing society.

This policy caters for and allows our school and each class the responsibility for formulating a clear, consistent and appropriate set of classroom and schoolyard expectations.

Our Student Engagement Policy is a direct result of our commitment to Whole School Planning and developing joint understandings and expectations in the area of students wellbeing.

We believe that discipline is self-discipline and the most effective way to foster this is through children realising and accepting responsibility for the outcome of their own actions.

Regards

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Principal**

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHILDREN

You have a responsibility:

- ◆ To allow others to learn and play happily without interference.
- ◆ To act so that no harm comes to you or to others.
- ◆ To observe school expectations.
- ◆ To maintain personal hygiene and cleanliness.
- ◆ To accept others as individuals with differing background, personalities and taste.
- ◆ To contribute to the best of your ability in all school activities.
- ◆ To treat and speak fairly and courteously to others.
- ◆ To listen to others.
- ◆ To be careful in your use of facilities and equipment.
- ◆ To respect other's property.
- ◆ To be sensible and careful in what you bring to school.
- ◆ To help keep the school clean, healthy and attractive.



RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

You have a right:

- ◆ To play happily without interference from others.
- ◆ To be accepted as an individual.
- ◆ To develop your academic, social and physical potential.
- ◆ To be treated and spoken to fairly and courteously by others.
- ◆ To have appropriate access to school facilities and equipment.



EXPECTATIONS

We believe that student wellbeing is about learning, guiding, encouraging and instructing within a framework of mutual respect.

In our school the behaviour expectations are made by discussion between teachers and their classes.

Communication Expectation

This applies to the agreed method of communication in the classroom and playground. It covers things like working noise and using polite language.

Learning Expectation

This applies to the way we learn in the classroom and in the playground. It covers things like cooperation, how we get attention or help in the classroom.

Moving Expectation

This applies to the way we move within the school building and the playground

Dealing With Others Expectation

This applies to the way we consider and respect others. It covers things like sexism, put downs, insults or racism.

Resolving Conflict or Problem Expectation

This applies to the way we solve problems with each other using restorative practices

Being Safe Expectation

This applies to safe behaviour and the safe use of equipment.



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PHILOSOPHY

Restorative Justice is a philosophy and a set of practices that endeavours to develop a balance between discipline that encompasses clear expectations, limits and consequences and support and nurturance for the student (Harrison, 2004). The research suggests that this balance tends to correlate with the best psychological and behavioural outcomes for students (Steinberg, 2001).

This “authoritative” approach is seen as far more effective than the “authoritarian” approach that is evident in some educational settings. The emphasis of Restorative Practices is to work **with** people rather than doing things to them or for them.

AIM OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

- ◆ To manage conflict and tensions by repairing harm and strengthening relationships as a way of building the school community.
- ◆ To build quality relationships built upon clear expectations and limits
- ◆ To manage conflict and make restitution
- ◆ To include those who are affected by the wrongdoing
- ◆ To teach important life skills such as social skills and problem solving skills
- ◆ To manage conflict in a way that restores relationships and finds real solutions to problems
- ◆ To contribute to providing a safe and supportive school environment



Restorative Justice Principles

The following are important principles which we at BSPS base our practices on:

- ◆ Awareness of the impact of behaviour on others
- ◆ Effectiveness of interpersonal communication
- ◆ Personal accountability
- ◆ The acceptance of ambiguity when necessary
- ◆ Separation of the deed from the doer
- ◆ Openness to learning from conflict and wrongdoing
- ◆ Satisfaction with the processes and outcomes
- ◆ Inclusive and fair processes



Restorative Justice Strategies

When conflict arises in our school community we will use the following strategies:

- ◆ Affective questions and statements
- ◆ Inner/Outer Circle techniques
- ◆ Collaborative Problem Solving
- ◆ Processes for formal Restorative Practice
- ◆ Restorative mediation
- ◆ Mini conferences
- ◆ Classroom conferences
- ◆ Community conferences
- ◆ Mediation
- ◆ Pikas method of Shared Concern
- ◆ No blame approach to bullying
- ◆ Student Leadership Training
- ◆ Parent Education

All strategies are based on collaborative problem solving. We will also further involve our community by running student leadership training and parent education forums.