Elizabeth East Primary School.
SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Rationale:

The term social environment refers to the ways in which people come together to live, learn and play, the relationships that are present and the ways people in a group treat each other.

A healthy social environment, which includes emotionally and psychologically well students and staff, is pivotal to success in achieving our vision for Elizabeth East Primary School. At school, as adolescents, and in their future lives emotionally healthy students are happy, able to deal positively with life's challenges, experience a sense of connectedness with the school and others, and are well placed to develop into well-balanced and successful young adults. Emotionally and psychologically healthy staff are resilient, able to manage changing and challenging times and to establish positive relationships with everyone in the school community and deliver the best possible teaching and learning programs for students.

Aims:

- To build a social environment that allows all school community members to work together and be active and effective participants in the learning process.
- To build a social environment based on a shared vision and set of values, positive safe behaviour, principles of child protection and agreed codes of conduct.
- To develop students who are able to become well balanced and successful citizens contributing positively to the overall health of our society.
- To strengthen our school community by creating a spirit of optimism, resilience , hope and courage.

Implementation:

- Developing a positive social environment is central to our role as a school, and is reflected in our whole school philosophy.
- We have a school vision, a set of values and codes of conduct which reflect our philosophy.
- A culture of positive reinforcement and encouragement will permeate all facets of our school.
- Our school will value and encourage student individuality, differences and diversity.
- Programs that provide for the development of appropriate social skills as described in the national social outcomes of schooling and the emotional health of students will form part of our curriculum.
- Programs that support student success in a safe environment, including anti bullying and behaviour management processes, and ones that encourage open discussion and contribute to the protection of children will be implemented across the school.
- The curriculum will be broad, will provide for the needs of individual students, and will be developed to cater for varied learning styles.
- Programs that support the wellbeing of parents and families will be available.
- The school will provide a school counsellor, and will access Department of Education staff with wellbeing and/or welfare expertise as required.
- Programs dealing with issues such as Drug Education will form part of the school's Social Environment program.
- Student voice will be valued throughout the school community and form part of the school's decision-making processes.
- Staff will be provided with professional development regarding social environment, the implementation of programs, and the resolution of issues.
- Staff will be supported by leadership and peers in monitoring and managing their own psychological health and given access to professional support to achieve this.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in