Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour

Together, we create safe schools where everyone belongs, learns, and thrives

When schools, families and students work together, we achieve the best outcomes. These partnerships are essential to creating school environments that support all students to belong, learn and thrive. As a parent and carer, you play a vital role in helping your child to understand and meet shared behaviour expectations.

	How **students** demonstrate expected behaviours	How **parents and carers** can help	How **schools** support students to meet behaviour expectations
	At school, all students are expected to be respectful, safe, and engaged. These behaviours help make schools a place where everyone can succeed. Students meet these behaviour expectations by:	By modelling and encouraging positive behaviour, you help your child build the skills and habits they need to be successful at school. When families and schools work together, students can achieve their best. Parents and carers can help support their child's behaviour by:	By teaching and reinforcing positive behaviour, schools ensure positive, safe and fair learning environments with a focus on learning and wellbeing. Schools support families and students by:
Respectful	→ Following staff instructions and school rules → Caring for school property and others' belongings → Using respectful language	→ Knowing the school's rules and supporting them at home → Modelling respectful behaviour in how you speak to and about school staff, families, and others both in person and online → Making use of the school's processes to raise and resolve concerns early	→ Teaching and demonstrating school rules and positive behaviour expectations to students → Explicitly teaching, modelling and acknowledging expected respectful behaviour → Engaging collaboratively and positively with all students, parents and carers
Safe	→ Keeping themselves and others safe from harm → Speaking up or seeking help from an adult if they or someone else is being treated unfairly → Only bringing safe and necessary items to school	→ Working together with staff if your child is having problems at school to understand and resolve the issue → Ensuring your child knows it is okay to ask for help from a trusted adult at school → Ensuring your child stays safe online by talking with them and addressing concerns early	→ Having clear policies and procedures to prevent and respond to bullying and keep students safe → Offering additional supports to students proactively, and supporting students to speak up and seek help → Proactively identifying and addressing problems to maintain a physically, socially and culturally safe school environment
Engaged	→ Going to school every day, being on time, and ready to learn* → Taking part, doing their best, and asking for help when they need → Knowing and following the school's policies, including the mobile phone policy	→ Helping your child to attend school every day – every day counts* → Communicating with school staff and working together to support your child's learning and wellbeing → Talking with your child about their day and how they are feeling, and encouraging their learning by noticing their effort and progress	→ Delivering evidence-based, inclusive education that meets the needs of all students → Empowering students to have a say in decisions that affect their learning and school life → Building strong, trusting relationships to ensure all students feel seen, heard and valued

The Department of Education provides resources and support for schools to build positive student behaviour and foster positive relationships between schools, students and families.

Where parents and carers can go for help

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing, behaviour or safety you can:

→ Talk to your child's teacher or identified contact person as the first step and follow the school's process for communicating concerns
→ Ask the school for support or a referral – they can connect you with wellbeing staff or specialist services
→ Contact the Department of Education's regional office if you need further assistance.

The following resources are also available:

→ Raising Children Network – provides advice for parents of school-aged, pre-teens and teens
→ eSafety Commissioner – Advice for parents and carers to help keep children safe online
→ Report Racism hotline – Find out how to report racism or religious discrimination in schools
→ Bully Stoppers – Advice for parents and carers about bullying

*we know that some students and their families are struggling with school attendance or navigating school refusal - here are some resources that can help - Attendance and missing school | vic.gov.au, Home | Parenting Strategies

For further information, scan the QR code or visit: vic.gov.au/supporting-positive-behaviour-schools

The Education State

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