GEMBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safe Environments Policy

Health Promoting Schools Policies

**Rationale:**

Providing a safe, inclusive and empowering school environment contributes to the health and wellbeing of all staff and students.

**Aims:**

- Provision of a safe, inclusive and empowering school environment for students, families, staff and visitors
- Delivery of safety education in one or more learning key areas of the curriculum as a part of a whole school approach to health and wellbeing
- Ensuring families, students and staff are key partners in promoting a safe environment.

**Definitions:**

**Bullying:** Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological aggressive behaviour by a person or group directed towards a less powerful person or group that is intended to cause harm, distress or fear.

The different types of bullying include:

- **Verbal or written abuse** - such as targeted name-calling or jokes, or displaying offensive posters
- **Violence** - including threats of violence
- **Sexual harassment** - unwelcome or unreciprocated conduct of a sexual nature, which could reasonably be expected to cause offence, humiliation or intimidation
- **Homophobia** and other hostile behaviour towards someone relating to their gender and sexuality
- **Discrimination including racial discrimination** - treating people differently because of their identity
- **Cyber bullying** - either online or via mobile devices.

**Implementation:**

- The school provides a safe, inclusive and empowering social environment that promotes a culture of respect, fairness and equality.
- The school provides a welcoming and inclusive physical environment, which reflects the diversity and interests of the students, families and staff.
- If a student is suspected of being at risk of or experiencing social, emotional, behavioural or bullying difficulties Gembrook Primary School will ensure the student and their family are referred to appropriate professionals and provided with additional resources to address that risk.
- The school ensures the use of appropriate and properly fitted protective equipment during physical activity to reduce risk of injury.

Ratified 2014
• The school has a traffic Management Plan which includes both car parking areas and takes action to minimise hazards from road traffic, particularly during pick up, drop off periods and other high risk times
• The school implements strategies to promote positive and responsible behaviour and to prevent and respond to bullying, discrimination and harassment. See the Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy.
• Staff and families recognise that they are role models and are encouraged to demonstrate behaviours that promote safety.
• Social and emotional learning, safety education and related health messages are incorporated across the curriculum from Foundation to year 6 and are delivered in one or more key learning areas of the curriculum.
• The school provides a curriculum that actively engages and builds students’ self-awareness, social awareness, responsible decision making, self-management and relationship skills.
• Collaborative group activities that encourage inclusion, participation, team-work and cooperation are incorporated in the curriculum.
• Staff are supported to access resources, tools and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote safe environments and behaviours.
• Families, students and staff are key partners in developing and supporting safety initiatives and are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies on a regular basis to support safety in the school and at home.
• Students are engaged in developing and implementing safety initiatives via the Student Representative Council (SRC), Ecowarriors, student action teams or other representative structures.
• Staff are encouraged to develop competencies to facilitate engagement of families and students from diverse cultural backgrounds.
• Staff are encouraged to work with local health professionals, services and organisations to increase the school’s capacity to deliver safety initiatives and promote safe environments.
• The school works with local government and other agencies to minimise safety hazards in the surrounding area.

**Evaluation:**

Gembrook Primary School is a safe, inclusive and empowering school environment for students, families, staff and visitors in which families, students and staff are key partners.

**References:**

2. DEECD What is Bullying?  
3. DEECD What is Bullying?  