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# Student Welfare

## Objective

Cire Community School delivers a grade 5 & 6 Primary program along with a Secondary and VCAL program to young people with complex behavioural, emotional and social issues, who have disengaged, or who are in the process of disengaging from the mainstream education system.

This policy is intended to define Cire Community School's philosophical response and continuum of care framework to effectively manage our students' needs.

## Scope

- Cire Community School Executive Manager Education
- Cire Community School Campus Principal and Leadership team
- Cire Community School Coordinators/Teachers/Support staff and Volunteers
- Cire Community School Wellbeing and Administration Staff

## Policy

Cire Community School is committed to offering an educational program that fosters a sense of individual and collective responsibility in students and ensures a safe and productive learning environment for all students.

### Student Cohort Background Information

Cire Community School provides an alternative educational setting for many of the region's most disadvantaged young people in terms of broad social and economic inequality, and marginalisation. Many of our students have complex social and personal barriers, have disengaged from mainstream education and are at risk of exiting school prior to the legislated minimum leaving age.

Our students need a supportive learning environment that is also flexible in its delivery and assessment approach. Cire Community School aims to achieve a supportive learning environment through small class sizes, a high staff to student ratio, recognition of different learning styles and an acknowledgement that our students learn best when they feel safe and secure in their own space.

Student educational engagement is achieved by offering student centred, creative and innovative projects that directly relate to our students' interests and passions.

In order to provide a holistic welfare response to our students, Cire Community School is committed to the following:

- Developing behaviour management procedures that are informed by the Berry Street Education Model and are designed to promote student engagement and a commitment to their education.
- **Corporal punishment is not permitted under any circumstance.** The school does not use restrictive interventions of any form.
- Student discipline and behaviour management should be responded to with a welfare approach that is individualised and tailored to the student, giving consideration to the personal and social factors that may be impacting on the student's life.

- Staff will be guided by the Behaviour Management Procedure when applying disciplinary measures, to ensure procedural fairness.
- Students should be encouraged to engage in appropriate support services as part of any disciplinary process.
- Behaviour Management Plans will be implemented for students with challenging behaviours.
- All staff will have the required VIT Registration or Working with Children Check.
- All staff will be provided with relevant Professional Learning opportunities.
- Mentoring projects and opportunities will be encouraged to ensure our young people have a positive connection to their own community.
- Strong partnerships with external welfare and youth services will be cultivated to support student welfare needs and increase our students' access to support services.
- All staff will assume responsibility for student welfare and safety, ensuring students feels safe and secure in a supportive environment where a sense of belonging and well-being is fostered.
- All staff will endeavour to provide successful educational and social experiences for all students.
- Students will be given every opportunity to develop positive social behaviours and problem solving skills and staff will be proactive in the management of student welfare issues.
- Communication processes and protocols will be made clear to ensure the effectiveness of student welfare, health and safety policies and procedures.
- Staff will document all incidents relating to student welfare and safety according to procedure and using the appropriate documentation.
- Student welfare is to be seen as a shared responsibility between school, home, and the community.
- Staff inductions will provide a comprehensive overview of policies and procedures.
- Staff are required to be knowledgeable of all relevant policies and procedures and legislative requirements of their work. Staff will ensure that their professional practice is in line with the policies and procedures and legislative requirements.
- Students must be made aware of the Child Safe Standards and Child Safety Responding and Mandatory Reporting requirements under which staff are obliged to operate. All students must be offered access to external welfare providers and should be encouraged to access that provider should their circumstances warrant it.
- Student safety is the responsibility of all staff.
- Cire Community School will provide access to all relevant policies and procedures on our school website.

### Related Documents

- Child Safety Responding & Reporting Obligations Policy & Procedure
- First Aid Policy & Procedure
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Behavioural Support Plan
- Emergency Management Plan
- Bus Safety Policy

### Related Legislation

Education and Training Reform Act 2006

### Area of Compliance

VRQA Minimum Standards for School Registration: Student Welfare.

**Organisational Area**

Cire Community School

**Approved by**

The Board



Signature:

Date: May 2022

**Operative Date**

August 2021

Reviewed May 2022

**Review Date**

May 2024