



## **CHILD SAFE PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT POLICY**

### **Student Wellbeing**

Student wellbeing care is the support given to students for their development as a person. It relates to the total care of students and involves tending to both the academic and non-academic needs of students including spiritual, emotional and social wellbeing. Wild Cherry School and Kindergarten (hereafter referred to collectively as the 'School') is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and social environment where students feel nurtured as they learn.

To this end, we have developed, and continue to develop, a comprehensive range of policies and procedures that promote the social and emotional wellbeing of our students, and to deliver age appropriate education to all students about:

- healthy and respectful relationships;
- child abuse awareness and a child's right to be safe;
- a child's right to make decisions about their body and their privacy;
- how they can raise concerns about abuse;
- resilience and coping with adversity;
- the fact that any concerns they do raise will be taken seriously and responded to appropriately;
- our Child Safe Policy and Child Safety Code of Conduct; and
- standards of behaviour for students.

Restorative justice practices are embedded in our teaching approach and ensure students know there is a safe environment to discuss issues affecting their social and emotional wellbeing. Students know to say and signal 'stop' if there is a behaviour that is not respectful. They know that if they take a concern to a staff member that it will be listened too and followed up appropriately. If there are issues impacting a class, then a whole class restorative conversation 'pow wow' will be held to address issues.

### **Students with a Disability**

The School has an obligation to students with a disability to ensure that, at a minimum, they are afforded the same level of educational and student wellbeing support as any other student at the School. When developing policy and procedure, consideration is given to how implementation may affect students with a disability.

Wild Cherry School is committed to ensuring that we fulfil our legal obligations including those related to discrimination and disability standards.

The School recognises that students with a disability will not only require additional assistance to participate and engage in School activities in a safe and supportive manner, but also that there are specific child protection risks that arise in relation to students with a disability.

It is recognised that students at the School with a disability may also require additional support to make a disclosure.

We educate our staff about the differences and support that children with a disability may require, and ensure they are aware of appropriate strategies and procedures to provide this support.

### **Cultural Diversity**

Children from culturally diverse backgrounds are children who identify as having particular cultural or linguistic affiliations by virtue of their place of birth, ancestry or ethnic origin, religion, preferred language or language spoken at home or because of their parents' identification on a similar basis. They include children of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent that identify as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Wild Cherry School values and respects the racial and cultural diversity of our students and is committed to ensuring that the backgrounds of all students are sensitively recognised, catered for, celebrated and valued so that racial and cultural differences do not compromise a student's safety and wellbeing.

It is our policy that:

- we identify children from culturally diverse backgrounds when they are enrolled in the School;
- we employ appropriate strategies to ensure the safety of these children as required;
- we encourage participation and empowerment of these children in the development of these strategies;
- we consider these children when developing and implementing policies and procedures related to child protection at the School; and
- we educate our staff about these cultural differences and the strategies and procedures we have employed.

### **AUTHORISATION**

Signature Board Secretary  
East Gippsland Steiner Education Group Inc.  
Date authorised: 27 November 2018