Prairie State School’s Commitment to Learning and Wellbeing

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Prairie State School creates a positive school ethos and rich learning environment that is open, respectful, caring and safe, optimising learning through a commitment to wellbeing.

Prairie State School does this by:
- Clearly articulating standards and expectations of students, staff and parent behaviours
- A behaviour ethos that encompasses all aspects of school life, underpinned by the School Rules of: BE RESPECTFUL, BE SAFE and BE RESPONSIBLE
- Clear and consistent policies, curriculum programs and explicit instruction
- A culture of meaningful communication and feedback between all parties
- Acknowledging individual differences and providing opportunities for students to learn and succeed
- A whole-school expectation of helping and supporting others – a “family-like” approach.
- Weekly Values taught and reviewed by the school Chaplain
- School and Classroom Rules visible to all and explicitly taught
- Providing and encouraging professional development which enhances our knowledge and skills in learning and wellbeing
- Careful monitoring of students at all times

CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY

Curriculum that enhances wellbeing equips students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and strategies to understand and manage themselves and their relationships.

Pedagogy that enhances wellbeing builds positive relationships.

Prairie State School does this by:
- A clear focus on positive behaviour through class discussions and feedback and awards
- Using school-wide pedagogical practices to ensure consistent, quality teaching for all students
- Providing students with an appropriate and consistent curriculum that builds on a foundation for life-long learning
- Building positive relationships between students, staff, parents and community
- Being responsive to the individual needs of students to build on their strengths
- Use knowledge of learning styles and individual differences to promote divergence in thinking and acceptance of others.
- Embedding social and emotional competencies through Values Education lessons and in other KLAs, where appropriate, across the school.
- Providing extra-curricular activities such as Culminating Activity performances and involvement, community support and events, cluster speaking and sports competitions, academic challenges, Under 8s Day, local show work, Awards Night, Camp and meaningful excursions.
- Providing and encouraging professional development in curriculum, pedagogy and classroom practice.

*The mention of specific organisation, programs or resources does not imply that they are endorsed by the Department of Education and Training.
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policies and procedures enable schools to make good decisions that optimise wellbeing. Policy intentions are transformed into action by school staff, students and the wider community.

Prairie State School does this by:

- Involving students in school decision-making,
- Involving the school community in decision-making and clearly sharing/outlining new curricula, teaching practices and expectations to parents.
- Responsible Behaviour Plan
- Values Education Program
- Using the “Restorative Justice” process to assist students to problem solve appropriate issues on their own and to increase their resilience when dealing with conflict. (as in the Responsible Behaviour Plan)
- Aligning policy and curriculum with cluster and Education Queensland guidelines
- Providing PD opportunities to expand knowledge of policies and procedures which promote learning and wellbeing. These have included, but are not limited to:-
  - Inclusive Education
  - Smart Choices
  - Student Protection training
  - Code of Conduct
  - Right to Information

PARTNERSHIPS

Productive partnerships expand the knowledge, skills and resources available in the school. Schools expand their capacity to support the wellbeing of students by nurturing partnerships with and between students, teachers, parents and carers, support staff and community groups.

Prairie State School does this by:

- Sharing curriculum plans and aligning pedagogical practices across and within our cluster.
- Facilitating productive partnerships between teachers, parents, carers and students. This has included parent reading, family socials, beginning Prep and classroom information sessions, parent volunteers, P&C information sessions, regular newsletter, Facebook, Website, Parent/Teacher Interviews, Culminating Activity Days, Awards Night
- Facilitating productive partnerships with nearby small schools – Dalrymple Alliance, Flinders Cluster of Schools
- Cluster Meetings, Regional Business Meetings and State Conferences.
- Recognising that parents play an integral role in the education of their children, supporting both in learning and wellbeing.
- Working with parents to optimise student learning and wellbeing. This not only includes information through our newsletter, Facebook and website, but individual and small group interventions when appropriate.
- Engaging a range of school-based services and external agencies to support students and their families.
- Recognising the diversity in our parent and carer community and choosing approaches which reach out to all.
- ARD and Coach conversations and assistance as required.