



# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY

## **School Profile**

Ararat College is located in the Central Highlands Region of Victoria approximately 100 kilometres west of Ballarat and is a 7-12 co-educational College of approximately 285 students servicing a large rural community. The College was established in 1913 as one of the state's earliest secondary schools on the current site. The College is organised into Years 7-9 (Junior School) and Years 10-12 (Senior School) with each sub school lead by the Junior and Senior School Coordinators, Assistant Principal and Principal.

The friendly, inclusive and supportive learning environment is a valued feature of the college. The teachers endeavour to make learning purposeful, challenging and relevant through individual and group work. There is a quiet working atmosphere in the College where teachers seek to promote respect, openness and sensitivity of others in a caring positive environment that nurtures its students in forming appropriate values.

## **Whole School Prevention Statement**

Ararat College is committed to ensuring every student is part of a safe and positive learning experience where they are engaged and supported to reach their full potential. Our positive school culture is also based on student engagement being the basis for learning. To support this, the Leadership Team, Welfare Team (Coordinators) and Teaching and Learning Team work together to develop classroom practice to ensure that our pedagogy and curriculum engages all students by recognising and responding to their diverse learning needs. Together, we promote effective teaching, inclusive and engaging curriculum and respectful relationships between staff and students.

All teaching staff belong to professional learning teams which encourage a Consistent Approach to Classroom Teaching that incorporates the main components of the Visible Learning model and the scope and sequence as outlined in the Australian Curriculum. Students are taught to be reflective, to take responsibility for, and ownership of, their learning.

Our Consistent Approach to Classroom Management ensures that behaviour expectations and consequences are clearly set out for students, parents and teachers. These guidelines aim to develop a culture that does not tolerate bullying and harassment, encourages respectful relationships and supports positive behaviour.

All strategies developed in regards to student engagement and wellbeing are done so in consultation with staff and students and in response to student needs and data. We realise the importance of consistency and clarity in all guidelines set and the imperativeness to support and reward positive behaviour of our students.

All students will be included and treated fairly and every effort will be made to follow the discipline procedures no matter the circumstances. Discipline procedures will be discussed and reiterated with staff once a term at the staff meeting. Corporal punishment is prohibited.

References:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/studentengagementguidance.aspx>

## **Rights and Responsibilities**

### **To develop a learning community**

#### **Through:**

- A commitment to lifelong learning
- Building a safe and supportive environment
- Creating a positive set of personal values

#### **By:**

- Developing positive, caring relationships
- Working cooperatively and collaboratively with the College community
- Developing a stimulating and inclusive environment
- Developing an understanding of the need for environmental sustainability
- Team work
- Pursuing excellence
- The use of learning technologies
- Connecting to outside organisations
- Catering for a diverse range of life experiences
- Responding to a wide range of life experiences
- Developing independent learners to promote lifelong learners
- Embracing a healthy lifestyle
- Recognising and celebrating achievements
- Developing a culture of positive role models that emphasize pride and respect
- Emphasising 'personal best' outcomes
- A commitment to the College goals and aspirations

#### **Our school values are:**

- We will treat each other with respect
- Student well being is our priority
- Student achievement will be recognised
- We will support personal growth of all
- We will be consultative in all decision making
- We will take responsibility for our actions
- We will communicate with honesty and integrity
- We will provide a safe and caring environment

References:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/studentengagementguidance.aspx>

## **Students Rights and Responsibilities**

<b>Rights – Students have a right to:</b>	<b>Responsibilities – Students have a responsibility to:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feel safe and secure within the school environment.</li><li>• To work in a secure environment free from intimidation, bullying or harassment.</li><li>• Participate fully in the school's educational program.</li><li>• Be treated in accordance with school values.</li><li>• Have personal and school property respected.</li><li>• Information regarding their rights and responsibilities.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participate fully in the school's educational program and to attend regularly.</li><li>• Display positive behaviours that demonstrate respect for themselves, their peers, their teachers and all other members of the school community.</li><li>• Behave in a manner that reflects the school's values.</li><li>• Demonstrate respect for students, school staff and the wider school community.</li><li>• Demonstrate respect for the rights of others' right to learn.</li><li>• Contribute to an engaging educational experience for themselves and other students.</li><li>• Attend school on a daily basis and be prepared for each class.</li><li>• Be a productive member of the school community, including taking responsibility for their own learning as they progress through the years.</li></ul>

## **Parents/Carers Rights and Responsibilities**

<b>Rights – Parents/Carers have the right to:</b>	<b>Responsibilities – Parents/Carers have a responsibility to:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expect that their child will receive an education that has a quality curriculum and occurs within a stimulating learning environment.</li><li>• Expect that their children will be educated in a secure environment in which care, courtesy and respect for the rights of others are encouraged.</li><li>• Be kept informed about their child's academic and social progress.</li><li>• Be informed about any lateness or absences impacting on their child's education.</li><li>• Communicate with the school on matters which may impact on their child's progress.</li><li>• Meet with school staff at a mutually agreed time.</li><li>• Be treated with respect and have their opinions heard and valued.</li><li>• Expect confidentially where it does not conflict with the obligations of the school regarding Mandatory Reporting.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work in partnership with Ararat College College and seek information regarding their child's education.</li><li>• Treat students and staff with courtesy and respect.</li><li>• Support the school in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students.</li><li>• Provide the school with information that is relevant and may impact on your child's education.</li><li>• To request a meeting with the school if concerns arise in relation to their child's education.</li><li>• Act in a manner that upholds the values of Ararat College while at the school.</li><li>• Ensure your child attends school on a daily basis and has the resources necessary to participate in their education (including providing for your child's school meals).</li><li>• Ensure your child attends school in uniform or that appropriate explanation is given if this does not occur.</li><li>• Be involved in school activities where there is opportunity to do so.</li><li>• Respect the rights of others to privacy.</li></ul>

References:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/studentengagementguidance.aspx>

## **Teachers Rights and Responsibilities**

<b>Rights – Teachers have the right to:</b>	<b>Responsibilities – Teachers have a responsibility to:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expect that they will be able to teach in an orderly, safe and cooperative environment.</li><li>• Be informed, within Privacy requirements, about matters relating to students that will affect the teaching and learning program for that student.</li><li>• Expect support from parents and carers regarding their child's education.</li><li>• Appropriate resourcing to teach a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum.</li><li>• Have personal and school property respected</li><li>• Contribute to the whole school planning and policy making.</li><li>• Have their privacy respected</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Treat students, parents and colleagues with courtesy and respect.</li><li>• Use positive behaviour support and restorative practices principles where appropriate</li><li>• Know how students learn and how to teach them effectively</li><li>• Know the content they teach</li><li>• Know their students</li><li>• Act in a manner that upholds the values of Ararat College while at the school</li><li>• Plan and assess for effective learning</li><li>• Create and maintain safe and challenging learning environments by following the Consistent Approach to Classroom Teaching and Management.</li><li>• Use a range of teaching strategies and resources to engage students in effective learning.</li><li>• Communicate regularly with parents and carers about their child's education</li><li>• Inform parents and carers where lateness, absences or behaviour impact on students' education</li><li>• Be involved in school planning, school improvement and policy making.</li><li>• Abide by the Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct.</li><li>• Engage in professional learning.</li></ul>

## **Shared Expectations**

Effective schools share high expectations with the whole-school community. Shared expectations are:

- Jointly negotiated, owned and implemented by all members of the school community, including students.
- Clear and specific.
- Focused on positive and pro-social behaviours.
- Focused on prevention and early intervention.
- Supported by relevant procedures.
- Consistent, fair and reasonable.
- Linked to appropriate actions and consequences.

## **Schools – principals, teachers and school staff**

Schools have a responsibility to provide an educational environment that ensures that all students are valued and cared for, feel they are part of the school, and can engage effectively in their learning and experience success.

References:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/studentengagementguidance.aspx>

## **School Actions and Consequences**

Student engagement, regular attendance and positive behaviours will be supported through a relationship based school wide Consistent approach to Classroom Teaching and Management.

This includes:

- Predictable and fair classrooms and school environments.
- Personalised learning programs for students where appropriate.
- Safe learning environments that encourage positive behaviours, respect for others and responsibility for learning.
- Opportunities for students to take responsibility and be an active member of their school community.

Appendix 1 and 2 outline our Consistent Approach to Classroom Managements and the consequences and actions for student misbehaviour.

References:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/studentengagementguidance.aspx>

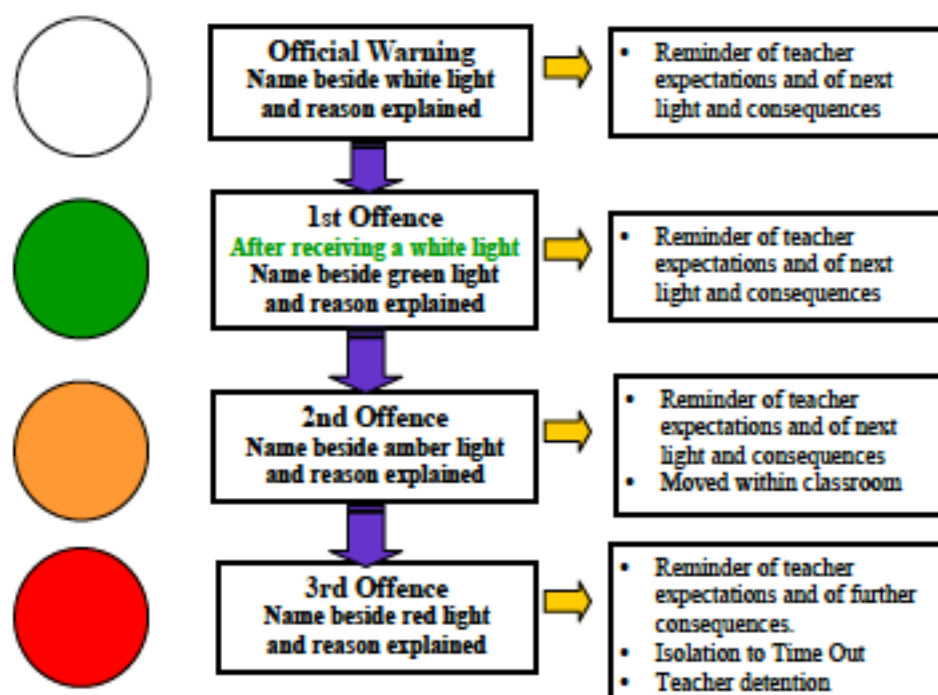
## Appendix 1



Ararat College



# Consistent Approach to Classroom Management Steps



Refusal to go to time out is a Level 2 behaviour and the student is to be sent to coordinator

- Student is to return to classroom when the teacher invites them back. This can also be negotiated with the class.
- If a student reaches a third red light within a week this is considered to be a Level 2 offence and will be sent to the coordinator.
- A fifth red light for the term will result in a behaviour management contract.

Every lesson each student begins with a clean slate



**Bottom Line Offence**  
Any Level 3 Behaviours

### Level 3 Consequences

1. Parents notified immediately
2. Suspension
3. Student Support Group Meeting (SSG) held with parents
4. Behaviour contract developed

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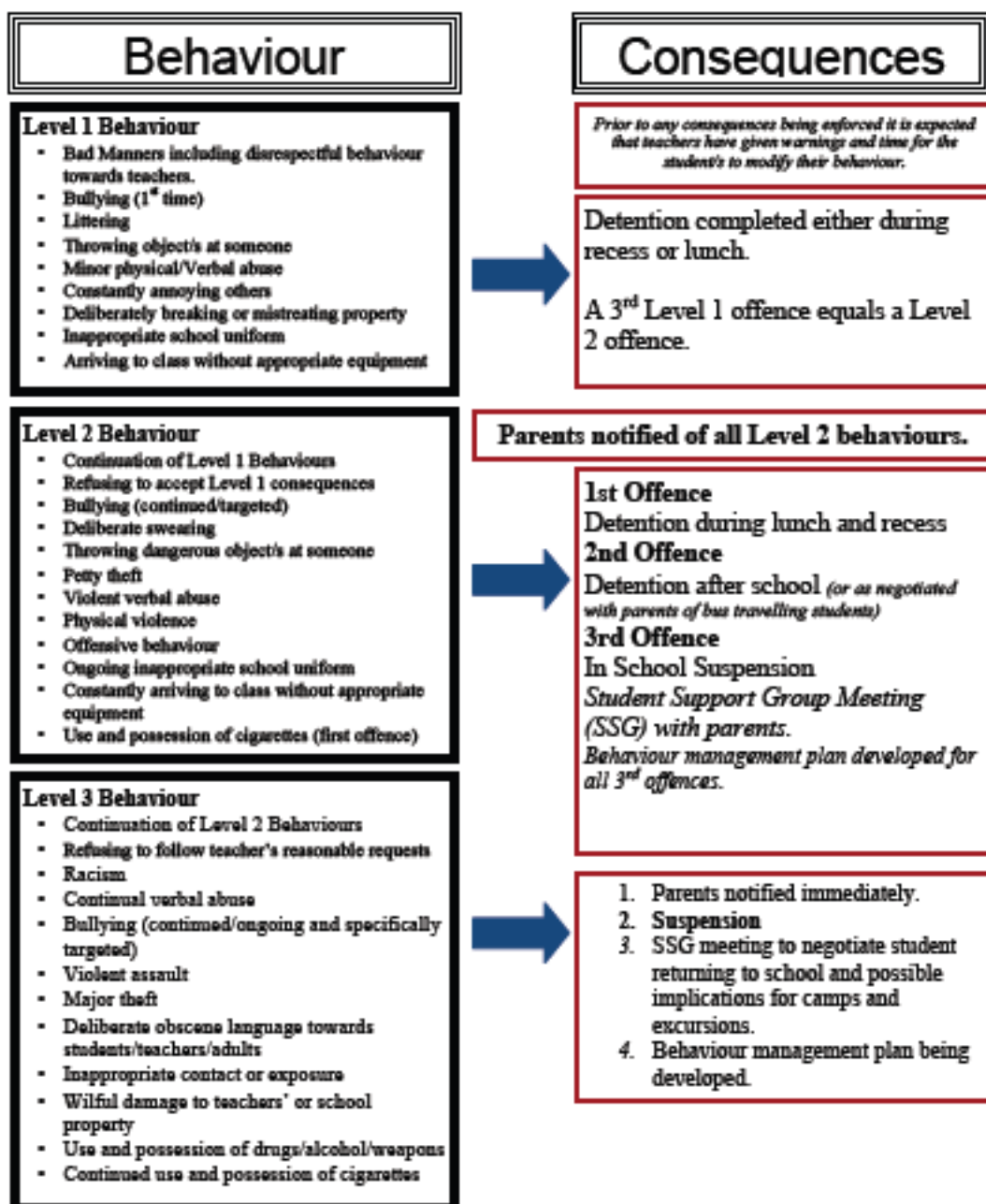
## Appendix 2



Ararat College



# Behaviour Flow Chart



This applies to all students unless an individual behaviour management plan has been developed.

References:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/studentengagementguidance.aspx>



### **Links to Associated College Policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Ararat College Computer and Internet Policy
- Ararat College Internet Usage Policy
- Ararat College Mobile Phone Policy
- Ararat College Attendance Policy
- Ararat College Bullying and Harassment Policy

### **Evaluation:**

Ararat College is committed to child safety (Ministerial Order No. 870) and takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the safety of our students is paramount.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

**This policy was last ratified by School Council on May 2017**

**This policy is due for review in.....**

**July 2020**

References:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/studentengagementguidance.aspx>