RATIONALE
Strathmore Primary School believes that students are better prepared for learning when they are happy, safe and healthy. This simple philosophy implies that the emotional and physical well-being of students is fundamental to their effective learning. Emotionally and physically healthy students are happy, able to deal positively with life’s challenges, experience a sense of connectedness with the school and others and are well placed to develop into well-balanced and successful young adults. Therefore, Strathmore Primary School is committed to parents, teachers and students working in partnership to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students.

AIMS
• To provide a school environment which recognises, values and builds student wellbeing.
• To develop students who are emotionally and physically healthy.
• To develop students’ strategies to reduce their vulnerabilities and increase their resilience.
• To develop students’ positive social behaviours and problem solving skills.
• To prepare staff to be confident, skilled and proactive in the management of student welfare issues.

IMPLEMENTATION

DEECD guidelines and regulations will guide the school’s actions and decisions.

• The Assistant Principal will coordinate student welfare across the school and will engage in ongoing professional development in relation to student welfare.
• The school will adopt a proactive and strategic stance with issues of student welfare, incorporating primary prevention, early intervention, intervention and postvention.
• A culture of positive reinforcement and encouragement will permeate all facets of the school.
• Student work and achievements will be regularly showcased and publicly recognised.
• The school will value and encourage student individuality, differences and diversity.
• The curriculum will be broad, will provide for the needs of individual students and will be developed to cater for multiple intelligences.
• The school will implement welfare support structures and programs which prioritise and address the identified needs of individual students or the school as a whole.
• The most significant of these, the “Strathmore Kids Care Values Education Program” will underpin the curriculum and will be fully implemented across all year levels every year. This program will:
Teach the seven values identified by the school community as documented in the School Strategic Plan (Sense of Community and Belonging, Respect, Tolerance, Resilience, Responsibility, Perseverance and Integrity).

Maintain the school’s high standards of social interaction and seek to continually improve the general tone of the whole school.

Reinforce a consistent, whole school expectation of harmonious social interaction.

The school will also endeavour to implement and maintain specific programs such as:

- Prep Buddies
- Peer Support
- Drug Education
- Beginning and end of year transition programs for all students, including the Ready, Set, Learn Program, Prep and Year 6-7 transition programs

The school will strive to provide an environment free from physical, verbal and psychological bullying, including cyber bullying.

The school will endeavour to cater for students identified with specific welfare issues by establishing student support groups that define individual goals, develop programs, monitor performance and behaviour, and provide ongoing support.

The school will monitor student attendance and punctuality and will implement strategies to improve student attendance and punctuality at an individual and whole school level.

The school will implement emergency and trauma management plans based on departmental guidelines and will follow protocols for Mandatory Reporting.

The school will access outside services to provide support for students and staff. These may include the school’s psychologist, mentors, Department of Human Services case managers and support workers, social workers and DEECD support staff.

Longitudinal data will be collected regarding frequency and types of welfare issues in order to measure the effectiveness of school-based strategies and approaches.

The school will comply with all privacy issues in accordance with current legislation and departmental requirements.

The Student Welfare Coordinator will communicate the processes and protocols for student welfare support to ensure that all students, parents, staff and visitors are aware of their rights and responsibilities as regards student welfare.

Staff will be provided with professional development activities to maximise the effectiveness of the school's student welfare programs, to ensure staff follow school and department protocols and processes and to provide staff with a range of strategies to address student welfare issues.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Student Leadership Policy
- First Aid and Medications Policy
- Anti Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Health and Physical Education Policy
- Drug Education Policy
- Privacy Policy

Ratified by School Council: 19th May, 2014

Reference: ‘Framework for Student Support Services’