



Inclusive, Engaging and Respectful Schools **Behaviour, Discipline and Suspension Policy Update – Term 4, 2022**

Friday, November 11, 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As shared in school newsletter communications last term, the Department of Education introduced the *Inclusive, Engaging and Respectful Schools* package in Term 3, ready for implementation in Term 4 (from day 1, October 10).

The Inclusive, Engaging and Respectful schools package includes three new policies that help our schools manage the diverse spectrum of student needs to improve outcomes for all students in every public school across New South Wales. The Inclusive, Engaging and Respectful schools package includes the new:

- [Inclusive Education Policy for students with disability](#)
- [Student Behaviour Policy and Procedures](#); and the
- [Restrictive Practices Framework and Restrictive Practices Reduction and Elimination Policy and Procedures](#).

These policies work together to support the inclusion and engagement of students. They will ensure schools are in the best position to help all students reach their full potential across the entire NSW public education system. The policies and procedures are based on international and Australian best-practice. The policies have been developed with the input of teachers, principals, parents, carers and leading educational experts.

The new policies, framework and procedures aim to strengthen the engagement and participation of all students, including those with disability, complex and challenging behaviours and additional needs. They provide more support to teachers and also ensure all students, teachers and staff are safe in school.

The introduction of these new policies and procedures are very similar to the practices that were already in place at Merimbula Public School prior to this term. So that you are aware of the new changes, we are sending home our updated Merimbula Public School "Student Behaviour Procedures", that align with the new Department policies and replace our previous Student Discipline Policy. We have also attached the Department of Education's Student Behaviour – Inclusive, Engaging and Respectful Schools package fact sheet.

At this week's P&C Meeting we also shared a Powerpoint presentation, including more information about the recent changes to Department policy. This presentation can be found on our website in the handouts section, as well as, on the policy page.

If you have any questions about this policy or other wellbeing procedures and support at our school, please contact me or our Assistant Principal Welfare, Janelle Hodsdon, on (02) 64951266.

Regards,
Michelle Huddleston
Principal