

POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office.

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PURPOSE

To provide the school community with information regarding the school's international student program.

SCOPE

Richmond West Primary School is accredited to teach international students who are fee paying and hold a subclass 500 "Schools - Student" visa. Accreditation does not apply to teach fee paying students or temporary residents on other visas.

DEFINITIONS

Level 1 accredited school: Schools who teach international students must meet certain standards and accreditation levels. Richmond West Primary School is a **Level 1** accredited school for international students. The Department of School Education (DET) run an accreditation, quality and review system to make sure international students receive quality education and care.

Student learning outcomes data will be reported in the *Annual Report to the School Community* provided to the DET, and also available on the State Register maintained by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Richmond West Primary School provides school policies in all instances where international school program accreditation requires a supporting policy, these are listed against each national standard for reference, and are also available on the school's website.

As a Victorian government primary school Richmond West Primary School only requires Level 1 accreditation for the following reasons:

- The school does not actively market or promote its program or recruit international students. Families of international students approach the school to enrol directly.
- The school does not provide homestay accommodation and additional welfare services to international students (international students reside with a parent or a Department of Immigration and Border Protection approved relative).

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NOTE: Level 1 accreditation usually applies to most primary schools and to secondary schools where a family residing in the local area has approached the school to seek enrolment, and in instances where the student is residing which a parent or DIBP approved relative.

As an accredited Level 1 school, Richmond West Primary School retains this status on an ongoing basis unless they choose to relinquish accreditation. Richmond West Primary School is required to attest that they will comply with all requirements of the quality Standards.

Richmond West Primary School will ensure that the school meets the minimum standards required for an International Student Program and satisfies the following two requirements required by Victorian government schools.

- 1. Enrolment Policy and Capacity Information
- 2. High Quality Student Support Services.

These requirements are contained within the School Accreditation documentation completed by the school. The documentation identifies the sections required for Level 1 and Level 2 accreditation. No additional documentation is required for accreditation.

Richmond West Primary School will provide:

- International student orientation program checklist as part of the student induction (see supporting documents)
- a student centred learning environment where students feel safe to be risk takers that will foster critical thinking and have opportunities to give and receive feedback on their learning to one another in a respectful way.
- An international student coordinator (ISC), usually the Assistant Principal, or Principal's nominated representative. They are the primary contact between the student, parents, school, and Department.
- all international students and their families at Richmond West Primary School with the information and ongoing support they need to settle into the school, and to achieving their study goals.

1. Curriculum Implementation

Richmond West Primary School will provide a variety of programs that will address the specific needs of students (including international students where applicable) in relation to gender, special learning needs, disabilities and impairments, giftedness and students from language backgrounds other than English.

The school will identify and cater for the different needs of particular cohorts of students when developing its curriculum plan. In developing its curriculum plan the school will provide a broad range



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of educational pathways to ensure improved student outcomes.

The Victorian Curriculum will be used as a framework for curriculum development and delivery at Foundation - Year 10 in accordance with Department of Education and Training (DET) policy and Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) guidelines. The school will provide at least 25 hours student instruction per week.

2. Student Wellbeing and Learning

Richmond West Primary School will embed student wellbeing in all learning experiences by aligning student welfare and curriculum policies and creating an educational environment and curriculum that is inclusive and meaningful to all students (including international students):

- providing an integrated and comprehensive curriculum approach that incorporates the personal and social issues of students into their daily learning experiences
- providing a flexible, relevant, inclusive and appropriate curriculum
- accommodating student developmental needs within the Victorian Curriculum stages of schooling

3. Students with Disabilities

The DET and Richmond West Primary School is committed to delivering an inclusive education system that ensures all students, including students with disabilities, have access to a quality education that meets their diverse needs.

Richmond West Primary School will liaise with DET to provide suitable programs and resources to support the delivery of high quality schooling for students with disabilities.

4. Attendance

International students are expected to attend at least 80% of scheduled classes. The school must be notified of any absences. The law in the State of Victoria is very clear about the requirement of children to attend school. Schools can be asked to furnish evidence in court on a child's attendance. The school's roll is therefore an important legal document.

Visa conditions require students to attend at least 80 per cent of scheduled course contact hours. Please note that DET prefers students to attend ALL scheduled course contact hours. International Students are expected to maintain a high attendance rate in order to fulfil visa conditions. Attendance is marked twice daily and uploaded into e-cases. Attendance reports are printed and monitored each week.

Schools record student attendance daily and process attendance rates for visa conditions fortnightly. Where non- attendance is covered by a medical certificate, the time:

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- is included in attendance figures
- will be taken into account when determining the 80 per cent attendance rate for compliance and reporting purposes.

To fulfil the attendance requirements, an International student is expected to attend all or most scheduled classes. Holiday plans must be made as not to interfere with school days where possible. The International Student Coordinator must be notified, in writing, of all holiday plans that involve travelling interstate or overseas.

Where non-attendance falls below 90% the ISC will provide intervention through the following:

- notify parents or caregivers and offer support to ensure regular attendance
- offer counselling, if required to ensure regular attendance

Where non-attendance falls below 85% the ISC will provide intervention through the following:

- notify parents or caregivers of non-attendance and issue a statement regarding the visa requirements for regular attendance of 80% or higher per semester.
- offer counselling, to ensure regular attendance
- Where non-attendance falls below 80% the ISC will:
- notify parents or caregivers of non-attendance and issue a statement regarding the visa requirements for regular attendance of 80% or higher per semester.
- Notify DET that the student has breached the visa conditions

5. Visa Requirements

Richmond West Primary School will ensure correct visa and travel details are recorded on file and systems are in place to ensure notification of any changes to student visas.

All students younger than 18 years of age must:

- have suitable accommodation and support, and general welfare must be maintained for the duration of the stay
- stay in Australia with a parent or legal custodian or a relative who has been nominated by your parents or custodians who is aged over 21 and is of good character
- **not** change arrangements without the written approval of your education provider.
- All students must tell the school:
- their Australian within seven days of arriving in Australia
- if there is a change of address, within seven days of the change
- of any change of school within seven days of receiving the electronic confirmation of enrolment certificate or evidence of enrolment.

For Further information see the International Student Visa Information



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6. Meeting the National Code Standards

As a Level 1 accredited school for international students, Richmond West Primary School has a responsibility to ensure the 11 National Code Standards for International students are enacted.

This includes:

DET's expectations of ISP schools in relation to compliance with each standard, including the evidence required to demonstrate compliance through the audit process (NB: evidence is required for all Standards except 3).

Standard 1: Marketing information and practices

Registered providers ensure that marketing of their education and training services is professional, accurate and maintains the integrity and reputation of the industry

Richmond West Primary School will: (where applicable use DET templates at the end of this section)

- Provide information to students/parents about any part of the academic program delivered by a third-party provider such as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) where applicable

Key links

- <u>International Student Program</u>

Standard 2: Recruitment of an international student

Registered providers recruit students in an ethical and responsible manner and provide information that enables students to make informed decisions about studying with the registered provider in Australia

Registered providers ensure students' qualifications, experience and English language proficiency are appropriate for the course for which enrolment is sought

Richmond West Primary School will: (where applicable use DET templates at the end of this section)

- Provide proper assessment of the suitability of student qualifications, experience and English language proficiency (based on information provided in the Request to Place package) prior to acceptance by the school so that applicants can be responded to in an efficient manner
- Enter into robust contractual agreements with third party academic or other education program providers, persons or businesses (such as recreational, drama, VET or other education programs (eg. those that assess students) and publish details of such arrangements so that parents, and students are aware of the services being provided (where applicable).
- Facilitate the VCAA course credit process on behalf of students, including assessment of academic suitability of students as part of the course credit process (where applicable)

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- Richmond West Primary School will also provide evidence required (where applicable) for meeting National Code Standard 2 in the form of:
- Written contractual agreements with third party education providers, persons or businesses, if applicable
- Written confirmation of acceptance of international students to be enrolled in response to a request to place e.g. records of the communications responding reply to Request to Place
- Published school entry requirements, in addition to general entry requirements published by DET
- Course credit submissions to VCAA
- Acceptance by the student of the course credit in writing.

Key links

- International Student Program
- Disability standards for education (2005)
- DET Enrolment Policy
- Right School Right Place Guide
- ESOS Framework

Related School Policies

- Enrolment Policy
- Attendance Policy

Standard 3: Formalisation of enrolment and written agreements

Written agreements between registered providers and students set out the services to be provided, fees payable and information in relation to refunds of course fees

NOTE: This standard does not require action or provision of evidence by Richmond West Primary School.

Standard 4: Education agents

The ESOS National Code requires registered providers take all reasonable measures to use education agents that have an appropriate knowledge and understanding of the Australian international education industry and do not use education agents who are dishonest or lack integrity

Richmond West Primary School will: (where applicable use DET templates at the end of this section)

- Engage with DET-accredited education agents only
- Will not enter into any direct contractual agreements with education agents
- Promptly provide written reports of education agent practice and performance that breaches the requirements of this Standard to DET



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- Provide feedback on an education agent's performance to DET via the School self-evaluation survey at least once per year per agent (if interaction with agents has taken place)

Richmond West Primary School will also provide evidence required (where applicable) for meeting National Code Standard 4 in the form of:

- Records of communication with DET to report on education agent practice and performance
- School self-evaluation survey (if interaction with agents has taken place)

Key links

- ISP Accredited Agent Listing
- Agent Expression of interest

Standard 5: Younger international students

Where students under the age of 18 are not being cared for in Australia by a parent or suitable nominated relative, registered providers ensure the arrangements made to protect the personal safety and social well-being of those students are appropriate. In addition to satisfying Standard 5 of the ESOS national Code of Practice for Providers, these arrangements should satisfy the requirements of the Victorian Government Child Safe Standards.

In situations where an international student is not able to live with parents or with DHA approved relatives in Victoria, the student's parents request that DHA arrange accommodation, support and general welfare for the student. In these cases the school arranges approved homestay accommodation with a local family/third party and manages the day-to-day coordination of student support, accommodation and welfare through the school's International Student Coordinator. The broader oversight of student welfare role is undertaken by the school Principal or Assistant Principal.

Child Safe Policy and Procedures

Schools are required to have and implement a Child Safe Policy that has been endorsed by the school council including:

Richmond West Primary School will:

- establish a School Child Safe Policy, Code of Conduct and the process for reporting actual or suspected physical or sexual abuse
- provide students and families with contact details of school staff designated as emergency contacts
- provide students with information encouraging them to speak up about child abuse and on how to report an incident or allegation of sexual or physical abuse
- ensure risks of child abuse associated with overseas students have been considered, identified and addressed by the school in its child safe practices



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Richmond West Primary School will also provide evidence required (where applicable) for meeting National Code Standard 5 in the form of: (where applicable use DET templates at the end of this section)

- An accessible Child Safe Policy.
- An accessible Child Safe Code of Conduct for the school, which applies to all paid and volunteer employees.
- Accessible information about the process for reporting a critical incident including actual or suspected physical or sexual abuse
- Records of written commitments from all paid and unpaid employees to comply with the Child
 Safe Code of Conduct
- A risk register containing child abuse risks associated with overseas students (if appliacbale)
- Evidence that staff, students and homestay providers (if applicable) have been made aware of the school's child safe practices and who to contact in the case of a critical incident including actual or suspected physical or sexual abuse.

Each international student and family is provided an orientation which includes:

- information on the school,
- academic programs,
- requirements for course attendance and course progress,
- support services,
- special programs,
- student/parent handbook,
- Code of Conduct (for secondary schools),
- parent reporting and other contact procedures,
- cultural information (www.movingtoaustralia.com.au/australian-culture/),
- information about the local area (e.g. shops and services, transport between school and home)
 (www.ptv.vic.gov.au/ and
- information about relevant legal services (<u>www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/public-safety-and-law/legal-aid, https://www.accc.gov.au/consumers/consumer-protection</u>)
- general health care and personal safety (<u>www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/pedestrian-safety/children-and-pedestrian-safety</u> <u>www.healthcareaustralia.com.au/)</u>, and
- complaints and appeals procedures

All international students are provided with information on safety and awareness information relevant to life in Australia, (https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/english/live-in-australia/health-and-safety)

Note: Level 1 accredited schools **do not** offer homestay accommodation and accept welfare responsibility for international students. Not all aspects of Standard 5 apply to these schools.



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Links

<u>Change of Welfare Provision Form</u>
<u>Child Safe - Protect website</u>

Department of Justice and Regulation Working With Children Check, Check Status Service

RELATED POLICIES

- Anaphylaxis Policy
- Asthma Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Child Safe Responding and Reporting Policy
- Child Safety Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Yard Duty and Supervision Policy

Standard 6: International student support services

Registered providers support students to adjust to study and life in Australia, to achieve their learning goals and to achieve satisfactory academic progress towards meeting the learning outcomes of the course

Richmond West Primary School will:

- Provide timely notification of DET of student non-arrivals within one day of their scheduled commencement date
- Update CASES21 to confirm the student's commencement of study within 5 working days of course commencement
- Provide age-appropriate, culturally-sensitive student orientation (information on the school, its academic programs, requirements for course attendance and course progress, general support services, special programs, student/parent handbook, Code of Conduct (for secondary schools), parent reporting and other contact procedures, cultural information, information about the local area (e.g. shops and services, transport between school and homestay), and relevant legal services, general health care and personal safety, and complaints and appeals procedures)
- Provide age-appropriate information on the school's Child Safe Policy, Child Safe Code of Conduct for staff and the process for reporting actual or suspected physical or sexual abuse.



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- Provide support for associated study programs, (where applicable) e.g. external English language program, language school, vocational education and training institute or other third party provider, including assistance to participate in relevant enrolment and orientation processes
- Provide regular contact with students and their families to ascertain academic progress and personal acclimatisation, including invitations to participate in host school events (where applicable) during their third party provider study
- Provide translation (where applicable) third party provider reports to parents (Compass learning cycles)
- Provide systems to report and respond to student emergencies and critical incidents (adherence to DET School Policy and Advisory Guide requirements), and provision of appropriate additional support for international students, including advising DET as appropriate
- Provide access to appropriate counselling and welfare services (where applicable) withinschool, at no cost re course progress, attendance, transition and accommodation issues
- Provide students with or refer them (including electronically) to general information on safety and awareness relevant to life in Australia.
- Provide a critical incident policy (including procedures for communications with students and their families (where applicable), during a significant overseas event (eg cyclone, flood, terrorist event, war etc) in the home country of international students where it may impact the student/s and their family)
- Include all international students on the schools wellbeing/at risk register spreadsheet, and indicate if any international students are at risk.

Richmond West Primary School will also provide evidence required (where applicable) for meeting National Code Standard 6 in the form of: (where applicable use DET templates)

- International student orientation program materials
- Critical incident policy
- CASES 21 records, student critical incident plan and reports (if applicable) and welfare related records (if applicable).
- Information supplied to staff, students and parents about the school's child safe practices including Child Safe Standards, Code of Conduct and the process for reporting actual or suspected physical or sexual abuse

Key links

- International Student Program



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Note: Level 1 accredited schools do not offer additional support services tailored to the needs of international students, beyond that available to domestic students. For this reason, not all aspects of Standard 6 apply to these schools.

Standard 7: Transfer between registered providers

Registered providers assess requests from students for a transfer between registered providers prior to the student completing six months of the principal course of study in accordance with their documented procedures

Richmond West Primary School will:

Provide efficient and timely implementation of processes to transfer international students between Victorian government ISP schools, and between government and non-government CRICOS registered schools, including notification of DET and the maintenance of appropriate transfer assessment records. (where applicable use DET templates provided)

Richmond West Primary School will also provide evidence required (where applicable) for meeting National Code Standard 7 in the form of:

- Transfer and Withdrawal forms (use DET templates provided) and related documents as appropriate as part of student records

Links

- <u>Enrolment Policy</u>

Standard 8: Monitoring Course Progress and Attendance

Course Progress

Registered providers monitor the enrolment load of students to ensure they complete the course within the duration specified in their Certificate of Enrolment and do not exceed the allowable portion of online or distance learning

Registered providers only enable students to extend the expected duration of study for the course through the issuing of a new Certificate of Enrolment in limited circumstances

Course Attendance

Registered providers systematically monitor students' compliance with student visa conditions relating to attendance

Registered providers are proactive in notifying and counselling students who are at risk of failing to meet attendance requirements

Registered providers report students under Section 19 of the ESOS Act who have breached the attendance requirements

Richmond West Primary School will where applicable:



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- Provide effective monitoring of student progress and performance, including attendance, absences from school and/or homestay accommodation; academic progress; and accommodation and welfare issues
- Provide timely notification to the student of its intention to report the student for not making satisfactory course progress, where the school has identified a student as not making satisfactory course progress in a second consecutive compulsory period of study.
- Provide timely notification to DET of changes to student enrolment durations as required
- Implement an appropriate intervention strategy where academic performance or attendance may lead to a risk of failing to meet requirements, including timely notification of students at risk.
- Apply remedial strategies as soon as a student's attendance rate reaches 90% per semester to ensure international students satisfy the ESOS attendance rate requirement of a minimum of 80% per semester
- Implement an intervention plan, including student counselling and establishing a student agreement if a student's attendance rate reaches 85% per semester
- Notify DET if an international student's attendance falls below 80% per semester
- Provide effective monitoring of student visa end dates, with timely reminders issued to students needing to renew their visa
- Provide clear and timely communications with parents and homestay providers about attendance and course progress.
- Notify of DET where an international student fails to satisfy course progress requirements
- Notify relevant students of the visa implications where a course is extended
- Provide timely notification for relevant students of the intention to report the student to DHA for not making satisfactory course progress or unsatisfactory attendance
- Provide DET with information on compassionate and compelling circumstances where a student is attending at least 70% of scheduled course contact hours but less than 80%.

Richmond West Primary School will also provide evidence required (where applicable use DET templates) for meeting National Code Standard 8 in the form of:

- International student files and course progress monitoring records
- Regular student attendance rate records and including the method for attendance rate calculation (which includes in the calculation attendance at any third party education providers)
- Attendance Summary Report Template or an attendance system that reports the attendance rate per semester
- International student enrolment records including tracking of changes to enrolment patterns and durations
- Copies of student agreements, student non-compliance checklists, intervention plans, and records of counselling, welfare and intervention meetings if required



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- Attendance Compliance Procedure Template (using the DET template) completed for at risk students
- International Student Welfare, Course Progress and Attendance Compliance Record Template completed for at risk students
- Student records relating to course progress, welfare, counselling, and intervention plans and meetings (which includes course progress with third party education providers)
- Course Progress Procedure Template completed for each at risk students

Key links

- International Student Program

Standard 9: Deferring, suspending or cancelling a student's enrolment

Registered providers may only enable students to defer or temporarily suspend their studies, including granting a leave of absence, during the course through formal agreement in certain limited circumstances

Registered providers may only cancel an overseas student's enrolment in certain limited circumstances, and then only after a documented appeals process has been applied.

Richmond West Primary School will:

- Provide timely notification to DET of changes to student enrolments as required
- Richmond West Primary School will also provide evidence required (where applicable) for meeting National Code Standard 9 in the form of: (where applicable use DET templates at the end of this section)
- Documented procedure for assessing, approving and recording deferments (approving leave) or suspensions of study requested by students. (Use templates at the end of this section).
- Records of changes to student enrolment including deferrals, suspensions and cancellations in CASES21 within 3 working days. Use templates at the end of this section).
- Records of the suspension or deferment assessment process (using the DET templates) and communications to the student and the parents/ legal guardian. Use templates at the end of this section).

Links

- Student Engagement
- <u>Behaviour Policy (see International Student Program Standard Application Terms, Conditions and Policies Document)</u>

Standard 10: Complaints and Appeals



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Registered providers need to have an internal complaint handling and appeals process in place. Professional, timely, inexpensive and documented complaints handling, and appeals processes ensure that grievances between overseas students and registered providers can be heard and addressed.

Registered providers must have and implement a documented internal complaints handling and appeals policy and process; advise an overseas student within 10 working days of their right to access an external appeals process and provide contact details, if the overseas student is not satisfied with the outcome of the internal complaints and appeals process; and immediately implement any decision or recommendation in favour of the overseas student through the internal or external appeals process.

Richmond West Primary School will: (where applicable use DET templates)

- Maintain records of complaints or appeals process (in alignment with DET Complaints policy and appeals process) and advice to students that they can escalate to DET where a matter is not satisfactorily resolved at the school level
- Maintain international student enrolments until the complaints and appeals process is resolved
- Provide relevant information to DET to facilitate the resolution of a complaint or appeal in an efficient and timely manner
- Richmond West Primary School will also provide evidence required (where applicable) for meeting National Code Standard 10 in the form of:
- Relevant information relating to any complaint or appeal as part of student records (in alignment with DET Complaints policy and appeals process)

Note: Only part of Standard 10 applies to Level 1 accredited schools, as these schools do not offer additional, tailored welfare support for international students.

Key links

- International Student Program

Related School Policies

- Complaints and Concerns Policy

Standard 11: Additional registration requirements

The educational resources of registered providers support the delivery of courses to students
The registered provider are required to have and implement policies and procedures to ensure its
staffing resources are adequate and have the capabilities as required by the quality assurance
framework applying to the course.



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The registered provider are required to establish and monitor an enrolment ceiling for the entire International Student Program in Victorian government schools as well as in each individual school.

Richmond West Primary School will:

- Participate in scheduled ISP School Compliance audits
- Submit enrolment cap variation forms, where a school is seeking to increase numbers of international students beyond the enrolment cap (where applicable)
- Provide the IED with copies of all signed third party contractual agreements on an ongoing basis as agreements with third party education providers are established.
- Richmond West Primary School will also provide evidence required (where applicable) for meeting National Code Standard 11 in the form of:
- Timely submission of all requested information during ISP Compliance audits including responding to Individual school compliance audit reports
- Schedules of improvements specified by the auditor, endorsed by school principals
- Confirmation by school principals that improvements specified by the auditors have been actioned
- Completion of accredited school application form and enrolment cap variation forms

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

NOTE: This policy should be read in conjunction with the school guidelines and student handbook for the international student program

This policy should also be read in conjunction with the National Code Standards, which are available in full at:

- <u>International Student Program</u>

RELATED SCHOOL POLICIES

- Anaphylaxis Policy
- Asthma Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Child Safe Policy
- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Policy
- Complaints and Concerns Policy
- Critical Incident and Accidents Policy
- Curriculum Framework Policy
- Digital Learning Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Emergency Management Plan



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- Enrolment Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website communications platform (COMPASS)
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

This policy will be reviewed within the school review cycle and/or updated to reflect changes in DET regulations or school circumstances.

| Policy last reviewed | February 2022 |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Approved by | Principal |
| Consultation | N/A |
| Next scheduled review date | February 2026 |