

Blackbutt State School

commitment to learning and wellbeing



LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A positive school ethos and rich learning environment that is open, respectful, caring and safe optimises learning through a commitment to wellbeing.

Blackbutt State School does this by:

- having a collective belief that every child matters and every child can succeed;
- following a collective school mantra that every decision we make and every action we take will be for the benefit of the whole child: socially, emotionally and academically;
- knowing the collective moral purpose that we do makes a difference in every child's life by helping every child to improve their learning by at least 12 months learning growth for 12 months of schooling;
- following three rules: Be Safe; Be Responsible; Be an Active Learner;
- regularly reviewing the school's Responsible Behaviour Plan. The plan fosters a positive, proactive and flexible approach in supporting students to develop sound decision-making skills and abilities;
- using KidsMatter, a national mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention initiative as a basis for recognising and informing the school community of the fundamental importance of student's mental health to their learning and wellbeing;
- having a strong commitment to parental/carer involvement and engagement through a partnership approach;
- employing of a school Chaplain who supports pastoral care programs and models and promotes our collective belief, mantra and moral purpose within the school community;

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.

Blackbutt State School does this by:

- developing and implementing a challenging National curriculum which emphasises higher order thinking, deep knowledge, intellectual engagement, connectedness, differentiation and a supportive school environment;
- developing a structure for educational delivery which enables students to gain behaviour necessary for life-long learning;
- ensuring there is a clear understanding of the links between responsibility for one's learning and one's behaviour and this is reinforced daily through our use of a unique reward system called Buzz Buttons;
- communicating clear expectations about the teaching of the Blackbutt State School Social and Emotional Learning Program;
- using KidsMatter to develop and implement a scope and sequence of lessons for social and emotional learning P-6;
- having a clearly outlined Expectations which outline consistency of behaviour for all students in situations inside and outside the classroom;
- communicating and implementing this framework through modelled behaviour, use of a common language and reinforcing positive behaviour;
- providing resources for staff to teach, reinforcing our valued behaviours;
- providing supporting resources for parents/carers and students;
- reinforcing positive behaviour through a consistent system of recognition and rewards for both learning and behaviour;
- developing and maintaining a full suite of extra-curricular activities available to students at break times and before and after school such as guitar club, fun club, STEM club, Lunchtime Sports.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy intentions are transformed into action by school staff, students and the wider community.

Blackbutt State School does this by:

- having a cohesive approach to learning and wellbeing with three rules at the core: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be an Active Learner;
- ensuring that all policies and procedures explicitly address the links between social and emotional competency and productive learning;
- explicitly teaching of skills associated with social and emotional learning: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making;
- developing processes and framework and implementing them using teams of people best suited to the task to ensure all students right to learn eg Student Support Team, KidsMatter Team, Case Conferences, development of Personalised Learning Improvement Plans for every child;
- providing professional support for all members of staff in the implementation of school policies and procedures;
- acknowledging that ownership for learning and behaviour rests with the individual;
- having students progressively become more responsible with their personal goal setting, the monitoring and review in collaboration with teachers and parents/carers;
- using timely and explicit feedback as a critical element in guiding actions;
- evaluating and assessing whole school, year level, class and individual performance against benchmarks and indicators, via interrogation of trend data and identifying the effectiveness through calculation of effect size.

PARTNERSHIPS

Productive partnerships expand the knowledge, skills and resources available in the school.

Blackbutt State School does this by:

- ensuring that our school is a happy place and that students have a strong sense of belonging;
- creating a significant sense of recognition and belonging among all groups within the school;
- establishing meaningful partnerships both within and outside the school with a focus on providing the best education for every student;
- working with relevant support and community groups to meet the needs of particular students and their families;
- ensuring that teaching is connecting and respecting life experiences and cultures of our students;
- acknowledging and valuing parents/carers as an integral part of their child/children's education and of the school community;
- ensuring relevant, regular and timely communication between the teacher, the child and the parent/s and or caregiver/s;
- keeping an up to date website and Facebook page;
- by distributing a weekly newsletter;
- maintaining strong relationships with family groups in recognition of diverse cultures through special events such as NAIDOC, Under 8's Day;
- monitoring school attendance and morale as indicators (positive) of our school being a safe, caring and happy learning environment;
- ensuring staff wellbeing is maintained by making work deadlines manageable and clearly articulating expectations ahead of time.