



PEER SUPPORT POLICY

Rationale:

The Peer Support Program supports positive cultural change within schools by incorporating a range of strategies developed through collaboration with members of the whole school community for the specific needs of the school. It is a dynamic peer led program that fosters the physical, social and mental wellbeing of young people and their community. The program focuses on relationships, optimism, resilience, leadership, anti-bullying, citizenship and student leadership.

Aims:

- To help children behave in helpful and courteous ways.
- To encourage co-operative participation in children.
- To help students develop responsibility, confidence, leadership and to make new friends.
- To ensure adequate numbers of teachers are trained in Peer Support.
- To provide necessary resources and timetabling for the program to take place.

Implementation:

- Peer Support takes place between Grade 2 and Grade 5 classes.
- One new teacher will be trained in Peer Support each year, or as the need arises.
- All Grade 5 children will be trained as leaders and participate in the program.
- There will be two Grade 5 leaders for each group of Grade 2 children. Grade 5 teachers are responsible for organising these groupings.
- Grade 2 and 5 teachers will decide on appropriate timetabling for Peer Support to take place.
- The Grade 2 and 5 teachers will determine the length of the Peer Support Program.
- Children can be removed from the program if their behaviour warrants.

Evaluation:

- Student debriefing after sessions.
- Grade 2 written evaluations.
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Reference: www.peersupport.edu.au