Widgee State School's 2015-2018
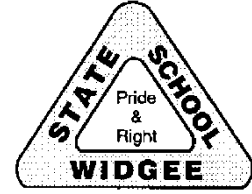
Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students
based on *The Code of School Behaviour*

1. Purpose

Widgee SS is committed to providing a safe, respectful and disciplined learning environment for students and staff, where students have opportunities to engage in quality learning experiences and acquire values supportive of their lifelong wellbeing.

This Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students is designed to facilitate high standards of behaviour so that the learning and teaching in our school can be effective and students can participate positively within our school community.

2. Consultation and data review

Widgee SS developed this plan in collaboration with our school community. Consultation with parents, staff and students was undertaken through meetings. A review of school data sets from 2011-2014 also informed the development process.

The Plan was endorsed by the Principal and the President of the P&C.

3. Learning and behaviour statement

All areas of Widgee SS are learning and teaching environments. We consider behaviour management to be an opportunity for valuable social learning as well as a means of maximising the success of academic education programs. Our school-wide framework for managing behaviour is Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support.

Our Responsible Behaviour Plan outlines our system for facilitating positive behaviours, preventing problem behaviour and responding to unacceptable behaviours. Through our school plan, shared expectations for student behaviour are plain to everyone, assisting Widgee SS to create and maintain a positive and productive learning and teaching environment, where ALL school community members have clear and consistent expectations and understandings of their role in the educational process.

Our school community has identified the following school rules to teach and promote our high standards of responsible behaviour:

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be a Learner
- Be Safe

Our school rules have been agreed upon and endorsed by all staff and our school P&C. They are aligned with the values, principles and expected standards outlined in Education Queensland's Code of School Behaviour.

Widgee State School

4. Processes for facilitating standards of positive behaviour and responding to unacceptable behaviour

Universal Behaviour Support

The first step in facilitating standards of positive behaviour is communicating those standards to **all** students. At Widgee SS we emphasise the importance of directly teaching students the behaviours we want them to demonstrate at school. Communicating behavioural expectations is a form of universal behaviour support - a strategy directed towards **all** students which is designed to prevent problem behaviour and to provide a framework for responding to unacceptable behaviour.

A set of behavioural expectations in specific settings has been attached to each of our three school rules. The Schoolwide Expectations Teaching Matrix below outlines our agreed rules and specific behavioural expectations in all school settings.

Widgee State School

SCHOOLWIDE EXPECTATIONS TEACHING MATRIX							
	ALL AREAS	**CLASSROOM**	**ONLINE**	**PLAYGROUND**	**TRANSITIONS**	**TOILETS**	**BUS LINES/BIKE RACKS**
BE RESPECTFUL	• Use equipment appropriately • Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself • Wear your school uniform	• Walk • Sit still • Enter and exit room in an orderly manner	• Participate in use of approved online sites and educational games • Be courteous and polite in all online communications	• Participate in school approved games • Wear shoes and socks at all times • Be sun safe; wear a broad brimmed hat	• Rails are for hands • Walk one step at a time • Carry items • Keep passage ways clear at all times	• Respect privacy of others	• Use own bike/scooter only • Wait inside the gate until the bus stops
BE RESPONSIBLE	• Ask permission to leave the classroom • Be on time • Be in the right place at the right time • Follow instructions straight away • Keep hair and nails neat and tidy	• Be prepared • Complete set tasks • Take an active role in classroom activities • Keep work space tidy • Be honest	• Report any unacceptable behaviour to a teacher • Post only appropriate content online	• Be a problem solver • Return equipment to appropriate place at the sports bell	• Move peacefully in single file	• Use toilets during breaks	• Walk bike/scooter in school grounds • Have your name marked on the bus roll • Leave school promptly
BE SAFE	• Respect others' personal space and property • Care for equipment • Clean up after yourself • Use polite language • Wait your turn	• Raise your hand to speak • Respect others' right to learn • Talk in turns • Be a good listener	• Respect others' right to use online resources free from interference or bullying • Keep any usernames or passwords private • Follow all teacher instructions about keeping private information off online sites	• Play fairly – take turns, invite others to join in and follow rules • Care for the environment	• Walk quietly and in an orderly way so that others are not disturbed	• Wash hands after using the toilet and before eating food • Walk	• Wait your turn • Keep your belongings nearby • Have your bus pass ready
BE A LEARNER	• Respect your right to learn • Respect others right to learn • Respect your potential to learn	• Listen carefully to instructions • Always try your best • Ask for help if you need it • Keep your work organised	• Listen carefully to instructions • Always try your best • Ask for help if you need it • Keep your work organised	•	•	•	•

Widgee State School

These expectations are communicated to students via a number of strategies, including:
- Behaviour lessons conducted by classroom teachers;
- Reinforcement of learning from behaviour lessons at School Assemblies and during active supervision by staff during classroom and non-classroom activities.

Widgee SS implements the following proactive and preventative processes and strategies to support student behaviour:
- A dedicated section of the school newsletter, enabling parents to be actively and positively involved in school behaviour expectations.
- Induction programs in the Widgee SS Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students delivered to new students as well as new and relief staff.
- Individual support profiles developed for students with high behavioural needs, enabling staff to make the necessary adjustments to support these students consistently across all classroom and non-classroom settings.

Specific policies have been developed to address:
- The Use of Personal Technology Devices at School (Appendix 1);
- Procedures for Preventing and Responding to Incidents of Bullying (Appendix 2); and
- Appropriate Use of Social Media (Appendix 3).

Reinforcing expected school behaviour
At Widgee SS, communication of our key messages about behaviour is backed up through reinforcement, which provides students with feedback for engaging in expected school behaviour. A formal recognition and monitoring system has been developed. This reinforcement system is designed to increase the quantity and quality of positive interactions between students and staff. All staff members are trained to give consistent and appropriate acknowledgement and rewards.

Widgee SS staff use positive comments, stickers and student of the week awards to reinforce correct behaviour. Staff members hand out Positive comments or stickers each day to students when they observe them following school rules in both classroom and non-classroom areas. This reinforcement occurs continually throughout the day. When they 'catch' a student following the rules they can choose to give them verbal praise or sticker for their personal chart. Good behaviour can also be reinforced on parade.

Responding to unacceptable behaviour
1. Re-directing low-level and infrequent problem behaviour
When a student exhibits low-level and infrequent problem behaviour, the first response of school staff members is to remind the student of expected school behaviour, then ask them to change their behaviour so that it aligns with our school's expectations.

Our preferred way of re-directing low-level problem behaviour is to ask them to think of how they might be able to act more safely, more respectfully or more responsibly. This encourages students to reflect on their own behaviour, evaluate it against expected school behaviour, and plan how their behaviour could be modified so as to align with the expectations of our school community.

2. Targeted behaviour support:
Each year a small number of students at Widgee SS are identified through our data as needing a little bit extra in the way of targeted behavioural support. In most cases, the problem behaviours of these students may not be immediately regarded as severe, but the frequency of their behaviours may put these students' learning and social success at risk if not addressed in a timely manner.

Students whose behaviour does not improve may need specialised intervention. These students are provided with intensive behaviour support.

Widgee State School

3. Intensive behaviour support: Behaviour Support Team
Widgee SS is committed to educating all students, including those with the highest behavioural support needs. We recognise that students with highly complex and challenging behaviours need comprehensive systems of support. The *Intensive Behaviour Support Team*:
- facilitates a Functional Behaviour Assessment for appropriate students;
- works with other staff members to develop appropriate behaviour support strategies;
- monitors the impact of support for individual students through ongoing data collection;
- makes adjustments as required for the student; and
- works with the School Behaviour Leadership Team to achieve continuity and consistency.

The *Intensive Behaviour Support Team* has a simple and quick referral system in place. Following referral, a team member contacts parents and any relevant staff members to form a support team and begin the assessment and support process. In many cases the support team also includes individuals from other agencies already working with the student and their family, a representative from the school's administration and regional behavioural support staff.

5. Consequences for unacceptable behaviour
Widgee SS makes systematic efforts to prevent problem student behaviour by teaching and reinforcing expected behaviours on an ongoing basis. When unacceptable behaviour occurs, students experience predictable consequences. Our school seeks to ensure that responses to unacceptable behaviour are consistent and proportionate to the nature of the behaviour. An office referral form (Appendix 3) is used to record all minor and major problem behaviour. The recording of three minor behaviours constitutes a major behaviour.

Minor and major behaviours
When responding to problem behaviour, the staff member first determines if the problem behaviour is major or minor, with the following agreed understanding:
- **Minor** problem behaviour is handled by staff members at the time it happens.
- **Major** problem behaviour is referred directly to the school Administration team.

Minor behaviours are those that:
- are minor breeches of the school rules;
- do not seriously harm others or cause you to suspect that the student may be harmed;
- do not violate the rights of others in any other serious way;
- are not part of a pattern of problem behaviours; and
- do not require involvement of specialist support staff or Administration.

Minor problem behaviours may result in the following consequences:
- a minor consequence that is logically connected to the problem behaviour, such as complete removal from an activity or event for a specified period of time, partial removal (time away), individual meeting with the student, apology, restitution or detention for work completion.
- a re-direction procedure. The staff member takes the student aside and:
  1. name the behaviour that the student is displaying;
  2. asks the student to name expected school behaviour;
  3. states and explains expected school behaviour if necessary; and
  4. gives positive verbal acknowledgement for expected school behaviour.

Major behaviours are those that:
- significantly violate the rights of others;
- put others / self at risk of harm; and
- require the involvement of school Administration.

Major behaviours result in an immediate referral to Administration because of their seriousness. When major problem behaviour occurs, staff members calmly state the major problem behaviour to the student and remind them of the expected school behaviour. The staff member then completes the office referral form and escorts the student to Administration.

The following tables outline examples of minor and major problem behaviours in our school:

Widgee State School

Widgee State School Minor Behaviours

Minor Behaviours are Teacher Managed

Behaviour Category	Definition	Example	Non-Example
Bullying/Harassment	*Major Behaviour Only*		
Defiant (Threat to Adults) *Threat to be recorded under 'Threat/s to Others'*	Resisting authority, engaging in power struggles, refusal to comply with a reasonable request.	• Comment made by student to adult, *'You can't make me'*.	• Comment made by student to adult, *'I can't do this, this is stupid'*.
Disruptive	Any disturbance or interference that takes away from the learning environment which does not cause physical harm or injury to one's self or others.	• Calling out without raising hand. • Repeated noise, talking.	• Excitedly calling out an answer. • Discussion with teacher aide during assisted activity.
Dress Code	Not adhering to school dress code or uniform policy, not being sun safe, not wearing appropriate footwear.	• Wearing items of clothing not connected to school colours. • Wearing coloured nail polish.	• Out of uniform, accompanied by a note or message from parent. • Make up worn as part of a costume or prop.
IT Misconduct	Inappropriate use of ICTs, e.g. internet, email, ipods, IWB, cameras, mobile phones.	• Accessing ICTs without permission. • Accessing inappropriate web content. • Using someone else's password.	• Student accessing ipad for learning. • Accidental redirection from a weblink. • Another student logging someone else on.
Late	*Do not use, refer 'Truancy'*		
Lying/Cheating	Lying - Making a statement which one knows to be untrue. Cheating - Using dishonest methods to gain academic advantage.	• Blatantly denying behaviour or activity that has been witnessed. • Cheating on a test, copying work done by someone else.	• Denying responsibility when behaviour was accidental. • Using another student's work to 'catch up' after absence.
Misconduct Involving Object	Inappropriate use of an object for the non-intended purpose of that object.	• Playing with a DS or similar during school time. • Throwing sticks or stones in a dangerous way, but not intended to hit others.	• Using personal device with permission in order to access curriculum. • Throwing sticks or stones into garden at direction of staff member.
Non-Compliant With Routine	Behaving in such a way that does not comply with classroom or playground routines. Not being organised, refusing to follow teacher expectations.	• Walking or running away from a teacher who has given a reasonable direction. • Being on the oval during eating time. • Playing 'chasey' on the concrete.	• Not following a teacher's instructions with plausible reason eg. fear, not hearing, didn't understand. • Picking up rubbish as directed by a teacher. • Running to a teacher for help.
Other Conduct Prejudicial to the Good Order and Management of the School	*Major Behaviour Only*		

Physical Misconduct	Inappropriate or deliberate contact made by hands or feet which does not result in injury.	• Intentionally tackling, wrestling or jumping on another person in the course of a game.	• Accidentally landing on or being pushed into someone during the course of a game.
Possess Prohibited Items	*Do not use, refer 'Prohibited Items'*		
Prohibited Items	Having at school an item that is of value or is banned (generally toys/trading cards).	• Keeping a phone in school bag or pocket instead of office. • In possession of or the owner of expensive toys or toy weapons at school.	• Arriving late and forgetting to hand phone in. • Bringing something in with parent permission for show and tell.
Property Misconduct	Use of property in a way which it was not designed that does not cause physical harm or injury to one's self or others.	• Throwing or kicking property belonging to school or someone else.	• Throwing or kicking own property.
Refusal to Participate in Program of Instruction	Not being organised for class, refusing to follow class or teacher expectations.	• Not bringing swimming gear for swimming lesson. • Not completing or returning homework on time.	• Not bringing swimming gear but accompanied by a note. • Not returning homework after being absent all week.
Substance Misconduct Involving Illicit Substance	*Major Behaviour Only*		
Substance Misconduct Involving Tobacco and Other Legal Substance	In possession of non-prescription medication such as panadol, without staff knowledge or written parental permission.	• Carrying or self-administering non-prescription medication such as panadol.	• Carrying non-prescription medication such as panadol, but in the process of forwarding to office.
Third Minor Referral	*Major Behaviour Only*		
Threat/s to Others	*Major Behaviour Only*		
Truant/Skip Class	Noticeably absent from class without reasonable explanation.	• Not showing up to class (beyond 10 minutes). • Leaving classroom without permission.	• Taking the 'scenic' route, via the toilets, when returning to class. • Racing to toilet in an emergency, for example, not feeling well.
Verbal Misconduct	Unsuitable use of words, calling names, use of inappropriate tones.	• Yelling back at a staff member, *'This sucks'*. • Screaming at other students during class time, *'you're an idiot, you're a loser'*.	• Yelling to a teacher across the oval. • Telling another student to stop being stupid.
Other	*Do not use. Please refer to more descriptive behaviour category.*		

*Possible responses or consequences **may** include:*
• *Calm chat* • *Natural Consequence* • *Reminder of expectations*
• *Time away* • *Community Service* • *Walking with responsible adult on duty* • *Confiscation*
• *Relocation or buddy class* • *Restorative Justice Detention* • *Out of Play* • *Expectation reminder*
• *Redirection* • *Discussion in session transition time*
• *Warning of referral if inappropriate behaviour continues*

Widgee State School

Widgee State School Major Behaviours

Major Behaviours are Office Managed

Behaviour Category	Definition	Example	Non-Example
Bullying/Harassment	Repeated targeting of a student, ongoing physical or verbal abuse, inappropriate touching, intimidation, threatening others with harm.	• Sustained targeting (physical/verbal/written) of the same individual. • Repeatedly staring at a girl's breasts.	• One off fighting with, name calling of or note writing to another individual. • Commenting positively about a girl's looks.
Defiant (Threat to Adults) *Threat to be recorded under 'Threat/s to Others'*	Refusing boldly to obey staff.	• Repeated refusal to follow instructions, student has not responded to flowchart intervention.	• Repeated refusal to follow instructions with response by child prior to red zone.
Disruptive	Any major disturbance or interference that takes away from the learning environment causing potential loss of teaching and/or learning time.	• Constantly walking around or out of place, yelling out, interrupting learning, without responding to flowchart intervention.	• Getting up in the middle of a lesson to sharpen a pencil.
Dress Code	• Not adhering to dress code or uniform policy to the point where a change of clothing is required.	• Wearing visually inappropriate or offensive clothing.	• Having to be provided with a t-shirt because the wearing of a singlet at school was beyond the control of the student.
IT Misconduct	The use of technology in such a way that it is used to bully, harass or threaten others or used to display inappropriate or offensive material.	• Using ICTs or phone to access or show naked photos. • Sending during school time, an email or text which states *'Meet me after school; we'll get back at her then'.*	• Printing a picture of the human body for a project. • Opening an email attachment to find it is offensive but alerting a teacher immediately.
Late	*Do not use, refer 'Truancy'*		
Lying/Cheating	Verbalising an incident which is found to be blatantly untrue and affects the reputation of another student or staff member.	• Accusing a staff member of physical assault but found through own admission or witness statement that incident did not occur.	• Offering information as a 'witness' where information is based on hearsay only.
Misconduct Involving Object	Stealing school, staff or student property with the intention of keeping it.	• Removing an item from a classroom and placing it in a school bag.	• Using someone else's sharpener without asking.
Non-Compliant With Routine	Any problem behaviours that are considered to be persistent violations. Similar behaviours over a course of 1-2 weeks.	• Late to class for the third time in 1-2 weeks. • Third occasion without swimming gear	• Late due to recurring medical appointments. • Inability to swim for medical reasons
Other Conduct Prejudicial to the Good Order and Management of the School	Any incident on excursion, representative sporting, extra-curricular activity (including commenting on social media) which puts the school or staff in disrepute.	• Students 'pashing' in the playground. • Exposing private body parts to others. • Being rude to visitors in school or in public places.	• Students walking around with arms over one another's shoulders. • Unintentional removal of clothes as part of a game. • Not responding to visitor for fear of stranger danger.
Physical Misconduct	Physical contact with the intent or outcome of causing injury or harm to others or self.	• Intentionally punching another child in the head.	• Accidentally landing on another student's head during the course of a game.

Widgee State School

Possess Prohibited Items	Do not use, refer 'Prohibited Items'		
Prohibited Items	Having possession of ore being the owner or a weapon or weapon look alike capable of causing bodily harm.	• Owner of prohibited items in someone else's possession. • Bringing a pocket knife to school.	• Finding prohibited items and handing to teacher. • Having a knife in a lunch box to cut an apple.
Property Misconduct	Intentional destruction of property belonging to the school or staff member, through misuse or aggressive behaviour.	• Deliberately kicking a hole in the wall.	• Falling or being pushed into a wall, causing damage.
Refusal to Participate in Program of Instruction	Minor Behaviour Only		
Substance Misconduct Involving Illicit Substance	Having possession of or affected by any illegal drug.	• Found with or affected by illegal drugs.	• Having or using own asthma puffer.
Substance Misconduct Involving Tobacco and Other Legal Substance	Having possession of or affected by any alcoholic substance, high caffeine drink or tobacco product.	• Found with or affected by alcohol or energy drink. • Found with or found to have brought in cigarettes or matches with intention to use.	• Finding items in grounds and taking to a teacher. • Bringing an empty cigarette packet in for assignment.
Third Minor Referral	Do not use, refer 'Non-Compliant with Routine'		
Threat/s to Others	Written or verbal intent to inflict punishment or injury or desire to see harm or death come to another person.	• I'm going to kill you, verbal or written.	• I won't be your friend. • I'm going to tell my mum on you.
Truant/Skip Class	Missing school, skipping classes or leaving school grounds without prior parental consent.	• Leaving school grounds without permission. • Failing to respond to returning to class.	• Running to collect ball without asking.
Verbal Misconduct	Repeated gestures or words directed toward others in a demeaning or provoking manner, includes racial or religious slurs.	• A student directing an expletive at another person.	• A student using an expletive after stubbing their toe.
Other	Do not use. Please refer to more descriptive behaviour category.		

*Action taken as a result of an office referral is case specific, but **may** include:*
• contacting parent or caregiver • non-participation in activity • detention • suspension
• intervention • exclusion

Widgee State School

Relate problem behaviours to expected school behaviours

When responding to problem behaviours, staff members ensure that students understand the relationship of the problem behaviour to expected school behaviour. One method that staff members might use to achieve this is to have students:

- articulate the relevant expected school behaviour;
- explain how their behaviour differs from expected school behaviour;
- describe the likely consequences if the problem behaviour continues; and
- identify what they will do to change their behaviour in line with expected school behaviour.

Should a problem behaviour be repeated, the staff member may not repeat the discussion/explanation process but simply remind the student of the consequences of their problem behaviour.

Ensuring consistent responses to problem behaviour

At Widgee SS, staff members authorised to issue consequences for problem behaviour are provided with appropriate professional development and/or training. Through training activities, we work to ensure consistent responses to problem behaviour across the school.

Students also receive training in how to respond appropriately when other students display problem behaviour, and the courteous way to respond when a staff member re-directs their behaviour or consequences are applied for problem behaviour.

6. Emergency or critical incident responses

It is important that all staff have a consistent understanding of how to respond to emergency situations or critical incidents involving severe problem behaviour. This consistency ensures that appropriate actions are taken to ensure that both students and staff are kept safe.

An **emergency situation or critical incident** is defined as an occurrence that is sudden, urgent, and usually unexpected, or an occasion requiring immediate action.

Severe problem behaviour is defined as behaviour of such intensity, frequency, or duration that the physical safety of the student or others is likely to be placed in serious jeopardy.

Basic defusing strategies

1. Avoid escalating the problem behaviour: Avoid shouting, cornering the student, moving into the student's space, touching or grabbing the student, sudden responses, sarcasm, becoming defensive, communicating anger and frustration through body language.

2. Maintain calmness, respect and detachment: Model the behaviour you want students to adopt, stay calm and controlled, use a serious measured tone, choose your language carefully, avoid humiliating the student, be matter of fact and avoid responding emotionally.

3. Approach the student in a non-threatening manner: Move slowly and deliberately toward the problem situation, speak privately to the student/s where possible, speak calmly and respectfully, minimise body language, keep a reasonable distance, establish eye level position, be brief, stay with the agenda, acknowledge cooperation, withdraw if the situation escalates.

4. Follow through: If the student starts displaying the appropriate behaviour briefly acknowledge their choice and re-direct other students' attention towards their usual work/activity. If the student continues with the problem behaviour then remind them of the expected school behaviour and identify consequences of continued unacceptable behaviour).

5. Debrief: Help the student to identify the sequence of events that led to the unacceptable behaviour, pinpoint decision moments during the sequence of events, evaluate decisions made, and identify acceptable decision options for future situations.

Widgee State School

Physical Intervention
Staff may make legitimate use of physical intervention if all non-physical interventions have been exhausted and a student is:
- physically assaulting another student or staff member; or
- posing an immediate danger to him/herself or to others.

Appropriate physical intervention may be used to ensure that Widgee SS's duty of care to protect students and staff from foreseeable risks of injury is met. The use of physical intervention is only considered appropriate where the immediate safety of others is threatened and the strategy is used to prevent injury.

Physical intervention can involve coming between students, blocking a student's path, leading a student by the hand/arm, shepherding a student by placing a hand in the centre of the upper back, removing potentially dangerous objects and, in extreme situations, using more forceful restraint.

It is important that all staff understand:
- physical intervention cannot be used as a form of punishment;
- physical intervention must not be used when a less severe response can effectively resolve the situation and the underlying function of the behaviour.

Physical intervention is not to be used as a response to:
- property destruction;
- school disruption;
- refusal to comply;
- verbal threats; and
- leaving a classroom or the school, unless student safety is clearly threatened.

Any physical intervention made must:
- be reasonable in the particular circumstances;
- be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident;
- always be the minimum force needed to achieve the desired result; and
- take into account the age, stature, disability, understanding and gender of the student.

Record keeping
Each instance involving the use of physical intervention must be formally documented. The processes can be found at http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au/corp/hr/workplace/Pages/Health-and-Safety-Incident-Recording,-Notification-and-Management.aspx online.

7. Network of student support
Students at Widgee SS are supported through positive reinforcement and a system of universal, targeted, and intensive behaviour support by:

- Parents
- Teachers
- Support Staff
- Head of Department
- Administration Staff
- Guidance Officer
- Advisory Visiting Teachers

- Positive Learning Centre Staff
- Senior Guidance Officer
- School Chaplain/Student welfare worker
- School Based Police Officer
- School Based Youth Health Nurse
- Youth Support Coordinator.

External support is also available through the following government and community agencies:
- Disability Services Queensland
- Child and Youth Mental Health
- Queensland Health
- Neighbourhood Centre
- Department of Communities (Child Safety Services)
- Police

Widgee State School

- Local Council

8. Consideration of individual circumstances

To ensure alignment with the Code of School Behaviour when applying consequences, the individual circumstances and actions of the student and the needs and rights of school community members are considered at all times.

Widgee SS considers the individual circumstances of students when applying support and consequences by:
- promoting an environment which is responsive to the diverse needs of its students
- establishing procedures for applying fair, equitable and non violent consequences for infringement of the code ranging from the least intrusive sanctions to the most stringent
- recognising and taking into account students' age, gender, disability, cultural background, socioeconomic situation and their emotional state
- recognising the rights of all students to:
  - express opinions in an appropriate manner and at the appropriate time
  - work and learn in a safe environment regardless of their age, gender, disability, cultural background or socio-economic situation, and
  - receive adjustments appropriate to their learning and/or impairment needs.

9. Related legislation
- Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005
- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006
- Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006
- Criminal Code Act 1899
- Anti-Discrimination Act 1991
- Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000
- Judicial Review Act 1991
- Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011
- Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2011
- Right to Information Act 2009
- Information Privacy (IP) Act 2009

10. Related policies and procedures
- Statement of expectations for a disciplined school environment policy
- Safe, Supportive and Disciplined School Environment
- Inclusive Education
- Enrolment in State Primary, Secondary and Special Schools
- Student Dress Code
- Student Protection
- Hostile People on School Premises, Wilful Disturbance and Trespass
- Police and Child Safety Officer Interviews with Students, and Police Searches at State Educational Institutions
- Acceptable Use of the Department's Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Network and Systems
- Managing Electronic Identities and Identity Management
- Appropriate Use of Mobile Telephones and other Electronic Equipment by Students
- Temporary Removal of Student Property by School Staff

Widgee State School

11. Some related resources
- Bullying. No Way!
- You Can Do It Program.
- Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support
- Code of Conduct for School Students Travelling on Buses

Endorsement

_____   _____

Principal   **P&C President**

Effective Date: 1 January 2017 – 31 December 2020

The use of personal technology devices at school

This policy reflects the importance the school places on students displaying courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using personal technology devices.

Personal Technology Devices include, but are not limited to, games devices (such as Portable gaming devices, Tamagotchis®, laptop computers, PDAs, Blackberrys®, cameras and/or voice recording devices (whether or not integrated with a mobile phone or MP3 player), mobile telephones, IPods® and devices of a similar nature.

Certain personal technology devices banned from school
Students must not bring valuable personal technology devices like cameras, digital video cameras or MP3 players to school as there is a risk of damage or theft. Such devices will be confiscated by school staff and may be collected at the end of the day from the school office. Breaches of this prohibition may result in discipline.

Confiscation
Permitted personal technology devices, used contrary to this policy on school premises will be confiscated by school staff. They will be made available for collection from the school office at the end of the school day unless required to be kept for purposes of disciplinary investigation, when it will only be returned in the presence of a parent.

Devices potentially containing evidence of criminal offences may be reported to the police. In such cases police may take possession of such devices for investigation purposes and students and parents will be advised to contact Queensland Police Service (QPS) directly.

Students who have a personal technology device confiscated more than once will not be permitted to have a personal technology device at school for at least one month, or longer if deemed necessary by the Principal.

Personal technology device etiquette
Bringing personal technology devices to school is not encouraged by the school because of the potential for theft and general distraction and/or disruption associated with them. However, if they are brought to school, they must be turned in to the Office or a teacher upon arrival at school.

Recording voice and images
Every member of the school community should feel confident about participating fully and frankly in all aspects of school life without concern that their personal privacy is being invaded by them being recorded without their knowledge or consent.

We uphold the value of trust and the right to privacy at Widgee SS. Students using personal technology devices to record inappropriate behaviours or incidents (such as vandalism, fighting, bullying, staged fighting or pranks etc) for the purpose of dissemination among the student body or outside the school, by any means (including distribution by phone or internet posting) builds a culture of distrust and disharmony.

Students must not record images anywhere that recording would not reasonably be considered appropriate (e.g. in change rooms, toilets or any other place where a reasonable person would expect to be afforded privacy). Recording of events in class is not permitted unless express consent is provided by the class teacher.

A student at school who uses a personal technology device to record private conversations, ordinary school activities (apart from social functions like graduation ceremonies) or violent, illegal

Widgee State School

or embarrassing matter capable of bringing the school into public disrepute is considered to be in breach of this policy.

Even where consent is obtained for such recording, the school will not tolerate images or sound captured by personal technology devices on the school premises or elsewhere being disseminated to others, if it is done for the purpose of causing embarrassment to individuals or the school, for the purpose of bullying or harassment, including racial and sexual harassment, or where without such intent a reasonable person would conclude that such outcomes may have or will occur.

Students may be subject to discipline (including suspension and recommendation for exclusion) if they breach the policy by being involved in recording and/or disseminating material (through text messaging, display, internet uploading or other means) or are knowingly the subject of such a recording.

Students should note that the recording or dissemination of images that are considered indecent (such as nudity or sexual acts involving children) are against the law and if detected by the school will result in a referral to QPS.

Text communication
The sending of text messages that contain obscene language and/or threats of violence may amount to bullying and or harassment or even stalking, and will subject the sender to discipline and possible referral to QPS. Students receiving such text messages at school should ensure they keep the message as evidence and bring the matter to the attention of the school office.

Assumption of cheating
Personal technology devices may not be taken into or used by students at exams or during class assessment unless expressly permitted by staff. Staff will assume students in possession of such devices during exams or assessments are cheating. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who is caught using a personal technology device to cheat during exams or assessments.

Recording private conversations and the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971*
It is important that all members of the school community understand that under the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971*, 'a person is guilty of an offence against this Act if the person uses a listening device to overhear, record, monitor or listen to a private conversation'. It is also an offence under this Act for a person who has overheard, recorded, monitored or listened to a conversation to which s/he is not a party to publish or communicate the substance or meaning of the conversation to others.

Students need to understand that some conversations are private and therefore to overhear, record, monitor or listen to such private conversations may be in breach of this Act, unless consent to the recording is appropriately obtained.

Special circumstances arrangement
Students who require the use of a personal technology device in circumstances that would contravene this policy (for example to assist with a medical condition or other disability or for a special project) should negotiate a special circumstances arrangement with the Principal.

Widgee State School

School policy for preventing and responding to incidents of bullying (including cyberbullying)

Purpose

Widgee SS strives to create positive, predictable environments for all students at all times of the day. The disciplined and teaching environment that we are creating is essential to:

- achieving overall school improvement, including the effectiveness and efficiency of our student support procedures
- raising achievement and attendance
- promoting equality and diversity and
- ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of the school community.

There is no place for bullying in Widgee SS. Those who are bullied and those who bully are at risk for behavioural, emotional and academic problems. These outcomes are in direct contradiction to our school community's goals and efforts for supporting all students.

Bullying behaviours that will not be tolerated at Widgee SS include name-calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments, kicking, hitting, pushing, taking belongings, inappropriate text messaging, sending offensive or degrading images by phone or internet, producing offensive graffiti, gossiping, excluding people from groups, and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.

Bullying may be related to:

- race, religion or culture;
- disability;
- appearance or health conditions;
- sexual orientation;
- sexist or sexual language;
- children acting as carers; or
- children in care.

At Widgee SS there is broad agreement among students, staff and parents that bullying is observable and measurable behaviour. When considering whether or not bullying has occurred, we will therefore avoid speculation on the intent of the behaviour, the power of individuals involved, or the frequency of its occurrence. Whether bullying behaviour is observed between students of equal or unequal power, whether it occurs once or several times, and whether or not the persons involved cite intimidation, revenge, or self-defence as a motive, the behaviour will be responded to in similar fashion, that is, as categorically unacceptable in the school community.

Rationale

Many bullying behaviours are peer-maintained through the actions of bystanders. That is, peers react to bullying in ways that may increase the likelihood of it occurring again in the future. Reactions include joining in, laughing, or simply standing and watching, rather than intervening to help the person being bullied. Whilst our school would never encourage students to place themselves at risk, our anti-bullying procedures involve teaching the entire school a set of safe and effective responses to all problem behaviour, including bullying, in such a way that those who bully are not socially reinforced for demonstrating it.

The anti-bullying procedures at Widgee SS are an addition to our schoolwide positive behaviour support processes. This means that all students are being explicitly taught the expected school behaviours and receiving high levels of social acknowledgement for doing so. Adding lessons on bullying and how to prevent and respond to it is a subset of procedures that our students are already accustomed to.

Widgee State School

Prevention

Attempting to address specific problem behaviours will not be successful if the general level of disruptive behaviour in all areas of our school is not kept to a low level. Therefore, our schoolwide universal behaviour support practices will be maintained at all times.

This will ensure that:

- Our universal behaviour support processes will always remain the primary strategy for preventing problem behaviour, including preventing the subset of bullying behaviour
- All students know the 4 school rules and have been taught the expected behaviours attached to each rule in all areas of the school
- All students have been or are being taught the specific routines in the non-classroom areas, from exiting the classroom, conducting themselves in accordance with the school expectations in the playground and other areas, to re-entering their classrooms
- All students are receiving high levels of positive reinforcement for demonstrating expected behaviours, including those associated with following our routines, from all staff in the non-classroom areas of the school
- A high level of quality active supervision is a permanent staff routine in the non-classroom areas. This means that duty staff members are easily identifiable and are constantly moving, scanning and positively interacting as they move through the designated supervision sectors of the non-classroom areas.

The student curriculum modules of the anti-bullying process consist of lessons taught by all teachers in all classrooms to a school wide schedule of instruction. At all times simultaneous instruction is our goal, in order to maintain consistency of skill acquisition across the school.

An initial introductory lesson is delivered, which teaches the 5-step process to be used by all students when experiencing bullying behaviour either as a person being bullied, the person bullying or bystander. Step 1 is to **Stand Strong** (this is modelled to students as standing tall and confidently) step 2 is to **stay calm** (this is modelled to students as talking in a calm tone. Step 3 **Respond confidently** (this is modelled to students by explaining clearly to the person who is bullying that what they are doing is not safe or respectful or responsible and at Widgee State School we take pride in doing what is right. Step **4 Walk Away**. Students in an uncomfortable situation are encouraged to trust their instincts and walk away. If the person follows and continues to display unsafe and disrespectful behaviour go to step 5 **Report**. Students are asked to report it straight away to the teacher or teacher aide who is closest.

The introductory lesson is followed by several shorter lessons, each of which focuses on one of the bullying behaviours that the school has identified and defined. These lessons include instruction on how to approach adults and also on what reactions and systemic responses they should expect from adults.

Research indicates that a common outcome of anti-bullying programming is an improvement in understanding of bullying but little change in the frequency or nature of actual bullying behaviour. One of the reasons cited for this outcome is the lack of behavioural rehearsal in the programming. The anti-bullying process at Widgee SS takes care to combine knowledge with practice in a process of active learning, so that students understand by 'doing' as much as by 'knowing'.

Widgee SS records inappropriate behaviour and uses behavioural data for decision-making. This data is entered into our database on a daily basis and can be recalled as summary reports at any time. This facility allows the school to track the effectiveness of its anti-bullying process, to make any necessary adjustments, and to identify specific bullying behaviours that may need to be revisited or revised in the instructional process.

Appropriate use of social media

Widgee SS embraces the amazing opportunities that technology and the internet provide to students for learning, being creative and socialising online. Use of online communication and social media sites and applications (apps) can provide positive social development experiences through an opportunity to develop friendships and shape identities.

When used safely, social media sites and apps such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram can provide positive opportunities for social learning and development. However, inappropriate, or misguided, use can lead to negative outcomes for the user and others.

Widgee SS is committed to promoting the responsible and positive use of social media sites and apps.

No student of Widgee SS will face disciplinary action for simply having an account on Facebook or other social media site.

As is set out in the school policy for preventing and responding to incidents of bullying (including cyberbullying)found at **Appendix 2,**it is unacceptable for students to bully, harass or victimise another person whether within Widgee SS grounds or while online. Inappropriate online behaviours can have a negative impact on student learning and the good order and management of Widgee SS whether those behaviours occur during or outside school hours.

This policy reflects the importance of students at Widgee SS engaging in appropriate online behaviour.

Role of social media
The majority of young people use social media sites and apps on a daily basis for school work, entertainment and to keep in contact with friends. Unfortunately, some young people misuse social media technologies and engage in cyberbullying.

Social media by its nature will result in the disclosure and sharing of personal information. By signing up for a social media account, users are providing their personal information.

Students need to remember that the internet is a free space and many social media sites and apps, like Twitter, have limited restrictions placed upon allowable content and regulated procedures for the removal of concerning posts.

Social media sites and apps are designed to share online content widely and rapidly. Once students place information and/or pictures online, they have little to no control over how that content is used.

The internet reaches a global audience. Even if students think that comments or photos have been deleted, there can be archived records of the material that will continue to be searchable into the future.

Inappropriate online behaviour has the potential to embarrass and affect students, others and the school for years to come.

Students of Widgee SS are expected to engage in the appropriate use of social media. Specific examples of appropriate use of social media sites and apps include:

- Ensuring that personal information, such as full name, address, phone number, school name and location or anyone else's personal information, is not shared.

- Thinking about what they want to say or post, and how it could be interpreted by others, before putting it online. Remember, once content is posted online you lose control over it. Students should not post content online that they would be uncomfortable saying or showing to their parents' face or shouting in a crowded room.

- Remembering that it can be difficult to work out whether messages typed on social media sites and apps are meant to be funny or sarcastic. Tone of voice and context is often lost which can lead to unintended consequences. If students think a message may be misinterpreted, they should be cautious and make the decision not to post it.

- Never provoking, or engaging with, another user who is displaying inappropriate or abusive behaviour. There is no need to respond to a cyberbully. Students should report cyberbullying concerns to a teacher and allow the teacher to record and deal with the online concern.

If inappropriate online behaviour impacts on the good order and management of Widgee SS, the school may impose disciplinary consequences for that behaviour regardless of whether the behaviour occurs during or outside of school hours.

Disciplinary consequences could include suspension and/or exclusion. In serious cases of inappropriate online behaviour, the school may also make a report to the police for further investigation.

Widgee SS will not become involved in concerns of cyberbullying or inappropriate online behaviour where the incident in question does not impact upon the good order and management of the school. For example, where cyberbullying occurs between a student of this school and a student of another school outside school hours. Such an incident will be a matter for parents and/or police to resolve.

Laws and consequences of inappropriate online behaviour and cyberbullying
Inappropriate online behaviour may in certain circumstances constitute a criminal offence. Both the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth) and the *Criminal Code Act 1899* (Qld) contain relevant provisions applicable to cyberbullying.

The Commonwealth Criminal Code outlines a number of criminal offences concerning telecommunications services. The most relevant offence for cyberbullying is "using a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence to another person".

The Queensland Criminal Code contains several applicable sections for cyberbullying. Potential relevant criminal offences are:
- Unlawful stalking.
- Computer hacking and misuse.
- Possession of child exploitation material.
- Involving a child in making child exploitation material.
- Making child exploitation material.

Widgee State School

- Distribution of child exploitation material.
- Criminal Defamation.

There are significant penalties for these offences.

Widgee SS strives to create positive environments for all students at all times of the day, including while online. To help in achieving this goal, Widgee SS expects its students to engage in positive online behaviours.

Widgee State School

Appendix 4

Widgee SS
Behaviour Referral Form

Student Name:				Location (please tick)	
Date:	Time:		Class:	Playground	
Referring staff member :				Specialist Lesson	
				Classroom	
				Other	

Problem Behaviour			
Minor (Please tick)		**Major** (Please tick)	
Defiance/Disrespect Low intensity, brief failure to follow directions.		**Defiance/Disrespect** Continued refusal to follow directions, talking back and / or socially rude interactions.	
Physical Contact Student engages in non-serious but inappropriate physical contact.		**Physical Aggression** Actions involving serious physical contact where injury may occur (eg hitting, punching, hitting with an object, kicking, scratching etc).	
Inappropriate language Low intensity language (eg shut up, idiot etc).		**Inappropriate /Abusive language** Repeated verbal messages that involve swearing or use of words in an inappropriate way directed at other individual or group.	
Disruption Low intensity but inappropriate disruption.		**Disruption** Repeated behaviour causing an interruption in a class or playground. (eg. Yelling or screaming, noise with material, disrupting games, sustained out of seat behaviour etc).	
Property Misuse Low intensity misuse of property.		**Vandalism** Student engages in an activity that results in substantial destruction or disfigurement of property.	
Dress Code Student wears clothing that is near, but not within, the dress code guidelines defined by the school.		**Dress Code** Refusal to comply with school dress code.	
Safety Student engages in brief or low-level safety violation not involving hurting any other individuals or groups.		**Safety** Student engages in frequent unsafe activities where injury may occur.	
Dishonesty Student engages in minor lying/cheating not involving any other person.		**Major Dishonesty** Student delivers message that is untrue and / or deliberately violates rules and/or harms others.	
Other		**Harassment / Bullying** Repeated teasing, physical and verbal intimidation of a student.	
		Other	

School Expectation Category						
Be SAFE		Be Respectful		Be Responsible		Be a learner

Others involved in incident							
None		Peers		Staff		Other	

Widgee State School

Behaviour Incident Report

Name of student/s involved in incident:

Person Completing Form: Date:

Problem behaviour (name):
Date of incident   Time incident started   Time incident ended
Where was the student when the incident occurred?
Who was working with the student when the incident occurred?
Where was staff when the incident occurred?
Who was next to the student when the incident occurred?
Who else was in the immediate area when the incident occurred?
What was the general atmosphere like at the time of the incident?
What was the student doing at the time of the incident?
What occurred **immediately** before the incident? Describe the activity, task, event.
Describe what the student did during the incident.
Describe the level of severity of the incident. (e.g. damage, injury to self/others)
Describe who or what the incident was directed at.
What action was taken to de-escalate or re-direct the problem?
Briefly give your impression of why the student engaged in the above-described incident. (e.g. was angry because I asked him/her to stop teasing).

Widgee State School

Debriefing Report

Formal debriefing
Formal debriefing should be led by a staff member trained in the process who has not been involved in the event. The goals of debriefing are to:
- reverse or minimise the negative effects of physical intervention;
- prevent the future use of physical intervention; and/or
- address organisational problems and make appropriate changes.

For students who have language or communication difficulties the debriefing process will need to be modified to accommodate their specific receptive and expressive needs.

Debriefing should provide information on:
- who was involved;
- what happened;
- where it happened;
- why it happened; and
- what we learned.

The specific questions we want to answer through the debriefing process are:
- **FACTS**: what do we know happened?
- **FEELINGS**: how do you feel about the event that happened?
- **PLANNING**: what can/should we do next?

Questions for staff
- What were the first signs?
- What de-escalation techniques were used?
- What worked and what did not?
- What would you do differently next time?
- How can physical intervention be avoided in this situation in the future?
- What emotional impact does using physical intervention have on you?
- What was your emotional state at the time of the escalation?

Questions for student
- What was it that you needed?
- What upset you most?
- What did we do that was helpful?
- What did we do that got it that way?
- What can we do better next time?
- Would you do something differently next time?
- What could we have done to make the physical intervention less invasive?

Notes on the discussion that occurs during the debriefing report are not required to be documented, however a note should be made that the debriefing has occurred for both staff and students involved (e.g. names, date, time and outcomes).

Widgee State School