

## School Communities Working Together

In Western Australia, parents/carers, school staff and students share responsibility for public schools providing safe, supportive and productive learning environments.

We achieve this through our relationships, good communication and working together.

### Creating positive environments

Our public schools provide positive environments for students to learn and for staff to work.

This is achieved by school staff, parent/carers and students:

- valuing and supporting every member of the school community and appreciating their contributions
- celebrating diversity and individuality; cooperation and acceptance are welcomed and encouraged
- forming positive connections
- creating friendly, supportive and cohesive communities.

### Promoting respectful relationships

Every student, staff member and parent/carer has the right to feel safe and be safe at school.

This is achieved by:

- teaching students about respect and appropriate relationships as part of the Western Australian Curriculum and students are expected to maintain positive behaviour in their school community
- principals working with their school community to create positive behaviour models and deal appropriately with students who violate the rights of other students and staff
- parents/carers encouraging, promoting and modelling good behaviour and respect for others at home, school and in their communities.

### Communicating well

School communities thrive on open communication wherein staff, students, and parents/carers have opportunities to share good news, discuss issues and maintain an ongoing dialogue.

Principals and school staff communicate with parents/carers in a variety of inclusive ways that are reflective of the school community. They may provide information in writing and/or speak with parents/carers in person. This will generally occur during the school day.

Parents/carers have opportunities to speak with or write to a member of staff to raise any issue of concern, provide feedback or make suggestions.

Teachers and school staff may not be available to respond immediately, however they will make every effort to respond, generally during school hours, within a reasonable timeframe.

Teaching staff, including principals, are not required to respond to communications outside of their normal working hours.

There is an expectation that communication and all interaction between school staff and parents/carers is mutually respectful.

Verbal and/or physical aggression or threats, offensive language and derogatory comments, whether face to face, over the phone, via email or on social media is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

School staff are not expected to respond to communication that is unacceptable and these will be referred to the principal or regional office.





## Working together

Student learning is strengthened when staff and parents/carers are actively and positively involved in their education.

By working together, we support the health and wellbeing of our students and help them develop resilience and confidence.

Our collective efforts are aimed at providing safe environments for all and promoting respectful relationships.

## Role of school staff

School staff play a key role in fostering good relationships with parents/carers.

They do this by:

- welcoming and encouraging parents/carers to participate in their children's education
- communicating information and responding to enquiries in a variety of inclusive ways, reflective of the school community
- maintaining professional relationships that are open, honest and respectful
- valuing every family and respecting their differences
- working with parents/carers to identify and promote the individual needs of their children.

## Role of parents/carers

Parents/carers have an important role in helping to create positive learning environments for students.

They do this by:

- treating all members of the school community with respect and dignity
- respecting differences and preferences of others
- supporting school policies and values
- being respectful in their relationships and reinforcing their children's good behaviour
- supporting the activities of their school and getting involved where they are able to
- encouraging their children to respect other students and school staff.

## Role of students

Students also play their part so they can have positive learning experiences.

They do this by:

- engaging in classroom activities
- being respectful to and supportive of others
- maintaining positive behaviour.

By everyone playing a part in providing safe, positive learning environments and opportunities for our students, we enable them to be the best they can be.

# Together we make a difference.