Mount Mee State School

Student Code of Conduct

2024-2027

Every student succeeding

Every student succeeding is the shared vision of Queensland state schools. Our vision shapes regional and school planning to ensure every student receives the support needed to belong to the school community, engage purposefully in learning and experience academic success.

Queensland Department of Education
State Schools Strategy 2024-2027

Uncontrolled copy. Refer to the Department of Education Policy and Procedure Register at http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au/ to ensure you have the most current version of this document.

Contact Information

Postal address:	1368 Mount Mee Road, Mount Mee 4521
Phone:	07 5433 5333
Email:	admin@mtmeess.eq.edu.au
School website address:	https://mtmeess.eq.edu.au
Contact Person:	Luke Forbes (Acting Principal)

Endorsement

Principal Name:	Luke Forbes
Principal Signature:	
Date:	24/06/2025

P/C President and-or School Council Chair Name:	Luke Forbes
P/C President and-or School Council Chair Signature:	
Date:	24/06/2025

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Purpose

Education Queensland is committed to provisions that ensure that all young Queenslanders have a right to and receive a quality education.

The mission of Mount Mee State School is to prepare young people to lead successful and productive lives. To do this we strive to create safe, positive and consistent environments that celebrate difference, optimises learning for all students and provides a respectful workplace for all students.

We also recognise that if students are to become productive members of society, school staff must help them to develop responsibility for their actions by both explicitly teaching and providing opportunities to practice social problem solving skills. It is essential that the whole school community works together with the same goals. By working together and having an insistence on high standards of behaviour, we create a learning environment that is essential to:

- Achieve overall school improvement
- Raise academic achievement and attendance
- Promote equality and diversity, and
- Ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community

In 2018 our school values were chosen as a result of deep and extensive collaboration within and beyond our school community. All decisions made regarding the processes of our school are based on these values. Our school values are:

Wonder

Integrity

Connection

Kindness

Excellence

Dedication

There is clear alignment between our school values and our school rules taught, reinforced and enacted in our classrooms and playground. Our school rules apply to staff, students, parents and visitors. Each of our classrooms discuss the meaning of these rules and how they might apply in different areas of our school in order to create their own matching classroom rules.

Be Respectful Be a Learner Be Safe

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Whole School Approach to Discipline

At Mount Mee State School it is considered that a major part of the teacher's role is to ensure that children will learn and develop within their school environment without disruptive behaviour hindering their success and enjoyment of learning.

Our Student Code of Conduct is grounded in the belief that the practices and behaviours of teachers and other adult staff at the school can, and do, influence student behaviours. This is further supported by the belief that students are capable of self-monitoring and choosing appropriate behaviour to suit their different roles within the school community.

The systems that constitute our Student Code of Conduct are deliberately chosen to reflect appropriate social choices and are in response to data based interpretations of the actual behaviours of students in the school.

Staff within Mount Mee State School support students to develop an understanding of, and practise appropriate social behaviours by:

- providing safe and supportive learning environments.
- providing inclusive and engaging classrooms that focus on student needs and curriculum expectations.
- making school community expectations clear for students
- presenting explicit learning opportunities that are designed to inform students of their rights and responsibilities as members of our school and wider community and how to evolve these responsibilities into daily habits.
- developing skills of self-management in students by providing opportunities for students in a controlled and highly supportive environment.
- using behavioural incidents as opportunities to re-teach expected behaviours
- encouraging students to be proud of the school and creating a sense of belonging through the wearing of a school uniform and participating in projects that support the local community.
- regularly communicating with parents about expectations and student performance.

Students develop working relationships within the school by acknowledging their role within the school community. They support teachers, parents and their peers by:

- participating in engaging and meaningful learning programs.
- taking responsibility for their own behaviour and learning.
- respecting the rights of other students to learn an teachers to teach
- demonstrating the school's Code of Conduct.
- working interdependently.

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Community members support the development of these relationships through:

- active participation in school events.
- demonstrating an active interest in student performance.
  demonstrating behaviours that reflect the school's Code of Conduct.
- continually supporting staff members to maintain consistent school and classroom improvement practices.

Any students or parents who have questions or would like to discuss the Student Code of Conduct are encouraged to speak with the class teacher or make an appointment to meet with the principal.

The above systems illustrate the very strong commitment to our belief that the creation of a safe and supportive learning environment depends upon the entire school community working together towards the same goals.

School Wide Expectations

Our staff are committed to delivering a high quality of education for every student, and believe all adults in the school, whether visiting or working, should demonstrate our school values of Wonder, Integrity, Connection, Excellence and Dedication

Students

Below are examples of what Mount Mee State School's values look like for students across the school. In addition, each classroom will have their own set of examples to help students and visitors understand the expectations and meet the standards we hold for everyone at Mount Mee State School.

Wonder

- Be prepared to look at situations a new way.
- Look for ways to contribute your own experiences and thoughts to class topics.
- Ask questions when you don't understand.
- Listen to fellow students' questions and conributions in class.
- Approach all class activities with the question: What can I learn here?

Integrity

- Follow adult instructions;'First time, every time.'
- Be honest.
- Use the Mount Mee State School Common Courtesies
- Hand in items you find to the teacher.
- Follow the school rules even when no one is watching
- Look after our environment by thoughtfully disposing of rubbish and using pathways.
- Use G rated language at school.
- Respect others space and belongings.

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Connection

- Seek the opportunity to work with all classmembers and listen to their ideas.
- Take different roles for group work activities.
- Stick up for someone who needs it.
- Make a new friend.
- Give someone a compliment.
- Look for opportunities to help others.
- Support school student leaders.
- Participate in special event days.
- Help other students in the playground.

Kindness

- Speak respectfully to students, staff and visitors.
- Include others in learning and play.
- Notice when someone needs help and offer support.
- Use kind words and actions, even when you disagree.
- Respect the feelings, personal space and belongings of others.
- Celebrate the efforts and achievements of others.
- Apologise and make things right when your actions affect others.
- Show patience and understanding when others are learning.
- Help create a safe and welcoming school for everyone.

Excellence

- Do your own work.
- Learn from your mistakes.
- Ask for help when you need it.
- Set yourself goals and make plans for reaching them.
- Apply effort to learning new tasks.
- Encourage fellow students to do their best.
- Seek and positively respond to feedback.

Dedication

- Complete your homework and assignments on time.
- Approach new learning with an ‘I can do it yet’ attitude.
- Follow teacher directions.
- Be prepared for class.
- Look for ways to contribute to the general running of the school.
- Seek leadership responsibilities.

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Parents and staff

The table below explains the value based behaviour expectations for parents when visiting our school and the standards we commit to as staff.

Wonder

What we expect to see from you	*What you can expect from us*
You help your child to see the strengths and benefits in diversity and difference in their classmates.	We will promote every child's individuality and build a cohesive, inclusive classroom and school culture.
You are aware of what your child is learning in class.	We will send home term newletters to inform you of the current curriculum focuses.

Integrity

What we expect to see from you	*What you can expect from us*
You are respectful in your conversations at home about school staff.	We will ensure positive behaviours are role modelled for all students.
You respect the obligation of staff to maintain student and family privacy.	We will maintain confidentiality about information relating to your child and family.
You approach the class teacher or principal if you are concerned about the behaviour of a staff member, another student or parent.	We will work with every family to quickly address any complaints or concerns about the behaviour of staff, students or other parents.
You will teat all school community members with respect.	We will treat you with respect.
You will be safe during school activities.	We will set safety guideleines and support you to follow them.

Connection

What we expect to see from you	*What you can expect from us*
You share relevant information about your child's learning, social and behavioural needs with school staff.	We will share relevant information with you about your child's learning, social and behavioural progress at school.
You take a positive, solution-focused approach to resolving complaints.	We will nominate a contact person for you to work with to resolve a school related complaint.
You respect school, student and staff privacy in your online communications.	We will act quickly to address social media issues that affect staff, students or families.
You seek out opportunities to provide positive feedback to the classroom teacher about their work with the class, a student or colleagues.	We will work closely with families to accommodate their personal needs, including work commitments, finances and family structure.
You notice when others need help, parents, staff and students, and ask if there is anything you do to assist.	We will check in with you about your child's needs or any support your family may require.

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You make an appointment to speak with the class teacher or principal to discuss any matters relating to your child.	We will respond as soon as practicable to your request for an appointment and negotiate a mutually agreeable date and time with you.
You recognise people are different and will be non-judgemental, fair and equitable to others in the school community.	We will welcome and celebrate a diverse school community with recognition of significant social, cultural and historical events.
You stay informed about school news and activities by reading the school newsletter and other materials sent home by school staff.	We will use the electronic school newsletter and communique as the primary means of notifying parents about school news, excursions or events.
You will provide positive feedback and share positive experiences with others.	We will endeavour to provide high quality cutticulum and extra –curricular activities.

Kindness

What we expect to see from you	***What you can expect from us***
You communicate with students, staff and other families in a respectful and considerate manner.	We will communicate with you respectfully, listen carefully and respond with understanding.
You encourage your child to include others and show kindness to people with different needs, backgrounds and experiences.	We will explicitly teach and model kindness, inclusion and respect for individual differences.
You encourage your child to consider how their words and actions affect others.	We will support students to develop empathy and understand the impact of their behaviour.
You support your child to apologise, repair harm and learn from mistakes.	We will use restorative approaches that help students take responsibility, repair relationships and make better choices.
You raise concerns directly and respectfully with the appropriate staff member.	We will listen without judgement and work with you to resolve concerns fairly and sensitively.
You help create a welcoming school community by showing patience, compassion and care for others.	We will foster a safe, supportive and welcoming environment in which every student and family feels valued.

Excellence

What we expect to see from you	***What you can expect from us***
You support your child to meet the learning and behavioural expectations at school.	We are clear about our learning and behavioural expectations, and contact you to provide regular feedback about your child's progress.
You will support your child to complete homework and projects to the best of their ability.	We will set expectations, provide examples where possible and set timelines to support completion of home tasks.
You will strive share your talents witht eh school to help enhance learning experiences of children.	We will provide a range of opportunities to support classrooms and the school.

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Dedication

What we expect to see from you	*What you can expect from us*
You leave and collect your child from the designated area at school.	We will give clear guidance about a designated area for parents to leave and collect students.
You ensure your children attend school every day and notify the school promptly of any absences or changes in contact details.	We will create a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for every student.
You will be aware of and participate in relevant decision making processes in the school.	We will inform you of input opportunities and seek your contributions.

Consideration of Individual Circumstances

Staff at Mount Mee State School take into account students' individual circumstances, such as their behaviour history, disability, mental health and wellbeing, religious and cultural considerations, home environment and care arrangements when teaching expectations, responding to inappropriate behaviour or applying a disciplinary consequence.

In considering the individual circumstances of each student, we recognise that the way we teach, the support we provide and the way we respond to students will differ. This reflects the principle of equality, where every student is given the support they need to be successful. This also means that not everyone will be treated the same, because treating everyone the same is not fair. For example, some students need additional support to interpret or understand an expectation. Others may benefit from more opportunities to practise a required skill or behaviour. For a small number of students, the use of certain disciplinary consequences may be considered inappropriate or ineffective due to complex trauma or family circumstances. These are all matters that our teachers and principal consider with each individual student in both the instruction of behaviour and the response to behaviour.

Our teachers are also obliged by law to respect and protect the privacy of individual students, so while we understand the interest of other students, staff and parents to know what punishment another student might have received, we will not disclose or discuss this information with anyone but the student's family. This applies even if the behavioural incident, such as bullying, involves your child. You can be assured that school staff take all matters, such as bullying, very seriously and will address them appropriately. We expect that parents and students will respect the privacy of other students and families.

If you have concerns about the behaviour of another student at the school, or the way our staff have responded to their behaviour, please make an appointment with the principal to discuss the matter.

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Differentiated and Explicit Teaching for all students

Mount Mee State School is a disciplined school environment that provides differentiated teaching to respond to the learning needs of all students. This involves teaching expected behaviours and providing opportunities for students to practise these behaviours. Teachers reinforce expected behaviours, provide feedback and correction, and opportunities for practise.

Mount Mee State School has divided the process of behaviour management into two processes:

- Proactive processes which support brain care, positive relationships and student learning. These processes involve all children being explicitly taught and supported to follow behaviour expectations. Some children will need differentiated support to varying degrees to follow expectations.
- Reactive processes used to respond to circumstances that involve choices that contradict our school values and rules.

These three layers illustrate that Level 1 is differentiated and explicit teaching for all students, Level 2 is focussed teaching for identified students and Level 3 is intensive teaching for a small number of students. Each layer provides progressively more personalised supports for students.

Proactive Processes:

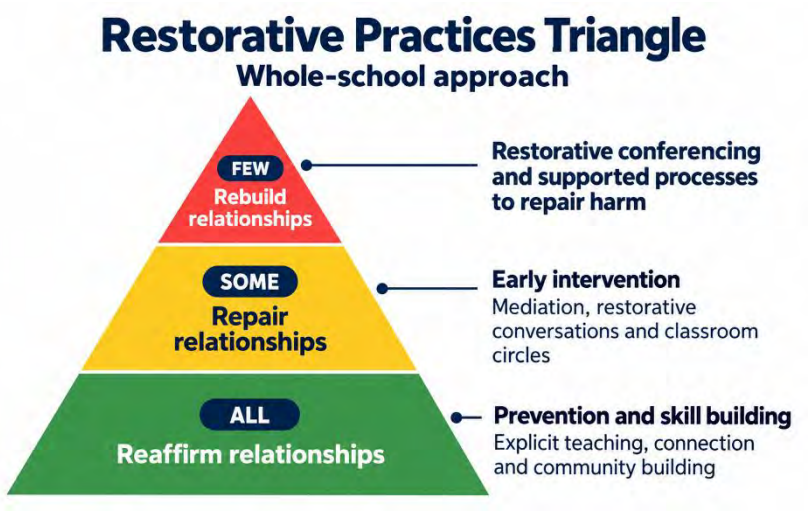
Curriculum:

Teachers at Mount Mee State School vary what students are taught, how they are taught and how students can demonstrate what they know as part of this differentiated approach to behaviour. Through moderation processes staff ensure the provision of a well-planned, innovative and engaging curriculum that allows for individual student learning to flourish. In turn students gain a positive concept of themselves as learners and hopefully as important members of our school community.

Restorative Practice:

Restorative Practice is a whole of school approach to supporting children to be positive and accountable members of our school community. Restorative Practice has been developed with one specific goal in mind; to support and facilitate the building of healthy relationships. It has been proven beyond doubt that when individuals live in healthy relationships with significant others, there is abundant personal growth, capacity for character building and a high level achievement in all areas of endeavour. At Mount Mee State School Restorative Practice is central to our way of being. Our school mission of preparing young people to lead successful and productive lives is aligned with the aim of Restorative Practice: the development of well-rounded, socially and emotionally competent young people who are accountable for their behaviour and understand that there is nothing that they do or say that does not impact on others in some way.

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Restorative chats are an important feature of Restorative Practice. Students are supported to take responsibility for their actions and seek methods to restore damage caused to relationships.



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Explicit Teaching Practices:

At Mount Mee State School positive social behaviours are modelled and explicity taught. A rule of the fortnight is chosen by analysing behaviour data. The rule is introduced to children through the weekly parade and reinforces in the classroom. All staff are made aware of the rule through staff newsletters and families are informed though the school newsletter. This awareness building process engages the power of a whole school community sharing and enforcing the same message.

Every classroom in our school uses the School Rule Expectations Matrix, illustrated below, as a basis for developing their behaviour standards. Using this matrix, the class teacher works with all students to explain exactly what each of the expectations look, sound and feel like in their classroom. The completed matrix is on display in every classroom, used as the basis of teaching expectations throughout the year and revisited regularly to address any new or emerging issues.

Every Classroom use the Mount Mee State School Expectations Matric , illustrated below as a basis for developing their behaviour standards. Using this matrix, the class teacher works with all students to explain exactly what each of the expectations look, sound and feel like in their classroom. Dynamic classroom rules are created using this matrix in response to student need.

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Mount Mee State School Expectations in Action

Our WICKED values guide us to be safe, respectful and ready to learn.

W Wonder | I Integrity | C Connection | K Kindness | E Excellence | D Dedication

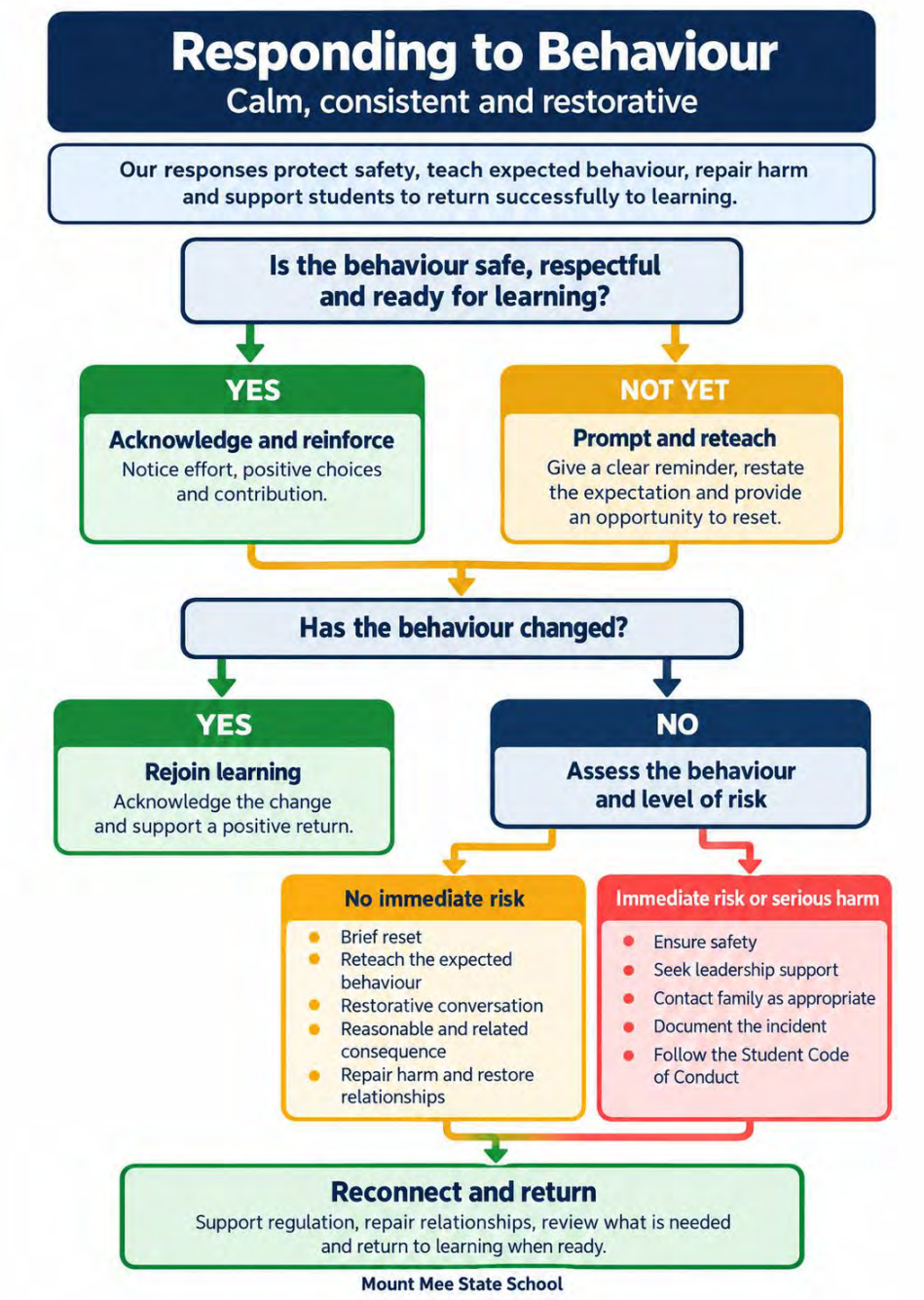
WHERE	BE SAFE	BE RESPECTFUL	BE A LEARNER
Everywhere	• Wear the correct uniform. • Report problems promptly. • Move safely and consider others. • Care for belongings and our environment.	• Use our Common Courtesies. • Follow directions first time. • Be honest and welcome differences. • Be polite to students, staff and visitors.	• Listen to instructions and explanations. • Use positive self-talk. • Take responsible learning risks. • Participate and celebrate success.
Learning spaces	• Keep bags, desks and walkways tidy. • Use furniture and equipment safely. • Move calmly around the room.	• Respond promptly to instructions. • Listen when others are speaking. • Allow teachers to teach and students to learn.	• Engage in learning and complete tasks. • Set goals and work towards them. • Ask for help and offer help appropriately.
Oval and playgrounds	• Wear shoes and a hat. • Look out for your own and others' safety. • Throw only equipment designed to be thrown. • Use natural and built equipment properly.	• Take turns, share and include others. • Use a calm and appropriate voice. • Play fairly and follow game rules. • Solve problems calmly or seek help.	• Join in and try your best. • Learn through play and cooperation. • Practise new skills and accept feedback.
Eating and undercover areas	• Line up and move calmly. • Wash hands and sit while eating. • Keep feet off seats. • Store lunchboxes safely and bin rubbish.	• Allow others to eat without disruption. • Share the space fairly. • Manage belongings so they do not obstruct others.	• Follow activity instructions. • Participate positively. • Return promptly and ready for learning.
Toilets	• Wash hands thoroughly. • Maintain personal hygiene. • Report hazards or damage to an adult.	• Respect privacy and personal space. • Keep the area clean. • Use facilities appropriately.	• Use toilets during breaks where possible. • Return promptly to learning. • Follow hygiene routines independently.
Excursions and transport	• Stay with your group. • Wear suitable clothing and safety equipment. • Tell an adult if you feel unsafe or unwell. • Wear a seatbelt and remain seated.	• Follow staff and instructor directions. • Use Common Courtesies and take turns. • Do not distract the driver. • Care for places, equipment and the environment.	• Listen actively and try unfamiliar activities. • Apply new learning and ask questions. • Show sportsmanship and celebrate achievements. • Return forms by the due date.
Before and after school	• Follow road and bus rules. • Remain in designated supervised areas. • Tell an adult if arrangements change.	• Greet and farewell others politely. • Follow staff directions. • Arrive and collect on time.	• Bring required equipment. • Arrive prepared for the day. • Transition calmly and be ready to learn.

Safe choices. Respectful relationships. Active learning.

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Positive Decision Making:

Children are supported to make positive behavioural decisions through developing an awareness of and following the Mount Mee State School Behaviour Flowchart. The flow chart is designed to show possible consequences for student actions; both positive and negative. The flowchart is designed in such a way that there are several opportunities to change direction towards positive behaviours.



The Essential Skills of Behaviour Management:

When students are provided with relevant curriculum and tasks that allow them to succeed, the need for management conversations in classrooms is reduced. By utilising the Essential Skills of Behaviour Management teachers are able to reduce time spent on managing conversations and increase the

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time spent on learning conversations. The Essential Skills for Classroom Management are directly related to setting expectations, acknowledging appropriate behaviour and correcting inappropriate behaviour. The Essential Skills of Behaviour Management support the building of strong reationships as they are built on respect and designed as proactive strategies that are minimally disruptive of the positive classroom learning environment.

The 10 Essential Skills for Classroom Management are:

Essential Skill	Description
➢ Establishing expectations	➢ Making rules
➢ Giving instructions	➢ Telling students what to do
➢ Waiting and scanning	➢ Stopping to assess what is happening
➢ Cueing with parallel acknowledgment	➢ Praising a particular student to prompt others
➢ Body language encouraging	➢ Smiling, nodding, gesturing and moving near
➢ Descriptive encouraging	➢ Praise describing behaviour
➢ Selective attending	➢ Not obviously reacting to some bad behaviour
➢ Redirecting to the learning	➢ Prompting on-task behaviour
➢ Giving a choice	➢ Describing the student's options and likely consequences of their behaviour
➢ Following through	➢ Doing what you said you would

Brain Care:
Mount Mee State School has a strong focus on emotional wellbeing. We believe that children who are emotionally balanced with skills to understand and manage their emotions are well positioned to learn. A range of research based programs are explicitly taught with an aim of supporting children to be aware of their emotional wellbeing as well as providing strategies for self management.

- Pause Program
- Zones of Regulation
- Bounce Back
- Respectful Relationships

Positive Reinforcement
The recognition of positive choices in an integral part of Moutn Mee State Schools' proactive processes. There are many avenues for recognition including awards on parade, class awards, communication to parents, pblished recognition in the newsletter and student run awards.

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Focused Teaching to Support Positive Behavioural Choices

Understanding and catering for the behavioural, cognitive, emotional and physical differences that influence student learning is vital. Approximately 15% of all students in any school or classroom may require additional support to meet behaviour expectations, even after being provided with differentiated and explicit teaching. These students may have difficulty meeting behavioural expectations in a particular period of the day or as part of a learning area/subject, and focused teaching is provided to help them.

Focused teaching involves revisiting key behavioural concepts and/or skills and using explicit and structured teaching strategies in particular aspects of a behaviour skill. Focused teaching provides students with more opportunities to practise skills and multiple opportunities to achieve the intended learning and expected behaviour.

Support staff, including teachers with specialist expertise in learning, language or development, work collaboratively with class teachers at Mount Mee State School to provide focused teaching. Focused teaching is aligned to the Expectations Matrix and focuses are determiend using current school based behaviour data. Student progress is monitored by the classroom teacher/s to identify those who:

- no longer require the additional support
- require ongoing focussed teaching
- require intensive teaching.

Mount Mee State School has a range of Student Support Network staff in place to help arrange and deliver focused teaching to students who need more support to meet expectations.

Intensive Teaching

Research evidence shows that even in an effective, well-functioning school there will always be approximately 5% of the student population who require intensive teaching to achieve behavioural expectations. Intensive teaching involves frequent and explicit instruction, with individuals or in small groups, to develop mastery of basic behavioural concepts, skills and knowledge.

Some students may require intensive teaching for a short period, for particular behaviour skills. Other students may require intensive teaching for a more prolonged period. Decisions about the approach will be made based on data collected from their teacher or teachers, and following consultation with the student's family.

For a small number of students who continue to display behaviours that are deemed complex and challenging, then individualised, function-based behaviour assessment and support plans and multi-agency collaboration may be provided to support the student. This approach will seek to address the acute impact of barriers to learning and participation faced by students who are negotiating a number of complex personal issues.

Students who require intensive teaching will be assigned an individual mentor at the school that will oversee the coordination of their program, communicate with stakeholders and directly consult with the student.

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Disciplinary Consequences

The disciplinary consequences model used at Mount Mee State School follows the same differentiated approach used in the proactive teaching and support of student behavioural expectations.

The majority of students will be confident and capable of meeting established expectations that are clear, explicitly taught and practised. In-class corrective feedback, sanctions and rule reminders may be used by teachers to respond to low-level or minor problem behaviours.

Some students will need additional support, time and opportunities to practise expected behaviours. Approximately 15% of the student population may experience difficulty with meeting the stated expectations, and even with focussed teaching, in-class corrective feedback, sanctions and rule reminders continue to display low-level problem behaviour. A continued pattern of low-level behaviour can interfere with teaching and learning for the whole class, and a decision may be needed by the class teacher to refer the student to the school administration team immediately for determination of a disciplinary consequence.

For a small number of students, approximately 2-5%, a high level of differentiated support or intensive teaching is required to enable them to meet the behavioural expectations. This may be needed throughout the school year on a continuous basis. The determination of the need will be made by the principal in consultation with staff and other relevant stakeholders. On occasion the behaviour of a student may be so serious, such as causing harm to other students or to staff, that the principal may determine that an out of school suspension or exclusion is necessary as a consequence for the student's behaviour. Usually this course of action is only taken when the behaviour is either so serious as to warrant immediate removal of the student for the safety of others, and no other alternative discipline strategy is considered sufficient to deal with the problem behaviour.

The differentiated responses to problem behaviour can be organised into three tiers, with increasing intensity of support and consequences to address behaviour that endangers others or causes major, ongoing interference with class or school operations.

Differentiated

The Essential Skills for Classroom Management are utilised as a vehicle for fostering responsible behaviour. Successful utilisation of these essential skills leads to less management conversations and an increase in learning conversations. In addition to the essential skills, class teachers will provide in-class or in-school disciplinary responses to low-level or minor problem behaviour. This may include:

- Whole class practising of routines
- Ratio of 5 positive to 1 negative commentary or feedback to class
- Corrective feedback (e.g. "Hand up when you want to ask a question")

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- Rule reminders (e.g. “When the bell goes, stay seated until I dismiss you”)
- Explicit behavioural instructions (e.g. “Pick up your pencil”)
- Revised seating plan and relocation of student/s
- Individual positive reinforcement for appropriate behaviour
- Classwide incentives
- Reminders of incentives or class goals
- Low voice and tone for individual instructions
- Give 30 second ‘take-up’ time for student/s to process instruction/s
- Reduce verbal language
- Break down tasks into smaller chunks
- Provide positive choice of task order (e.g. “Which one do you want to start with?”)
- Prompt student to take a break or time away in class
- Model appropriate language, problem solving and verbalise thinking process (e.g. “I’m not sure what is the next step, who can help me?”)
- Provide demonstration of expected behaviour
- Peer consequence (e.g. corrective feedback to influential peer demonstrating same problem behaviour)
- Private discussion with student about expected behaviour
- Reprimand for inappropriate behaviour
- Warning of more serious consequences (e.g. removal from classroom)
- Detention

Focussed

Class teacher is supported by other school-based staff to address in-class problem behaviour. This may include:

- Functional Behaviour Assessment
- Individual student behaviour support strategies (e.g. Student behaviour plan)
- Targeted skills teaching in small group
- Token economy
- Detention
- Behavioural contract
- Counselling and guidance support
- Self-monitoring plan
- Check in Check Out strategy
- Teacher coaching and debriefing
- Referral to Student Support Network for team based problem solving
- Stakeholder meeting with parents and external agencies

Intensive

School leadership team work in consultation with Mount Mee Enabling Success Team to address persistent or ongoing serious problem behaviour. This may include:

- Functional Behaviour Assessment based individual support plan
- Complex case management and review
- Stakeholder meeting with parents and external agencies including regional specialists

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- Temporary removal of student property)
- Short term suspension (up to 10 school days)
- Long term suspension (up to 20 school days)
- Charge related suspension (student has been charged with a serious criminal offence is suspended from school until the charge has been dealt with by the relevant justice authorities)
- Suspension pending exclusion (student is suspended from school pending a decision by the Director-General or delegate (principal) about their exclusion from school)
- Exclusion (student is excluded from a particular state school site, a group of state schools or all state schools in Queensland for a defined period of time or permanently)
- Cancellation of enrolment for students older than compulsory school age who refuse to participate in the educational program provided at the school.

School Disciplinary Absences

A School Disciplinary Absence (SDA) is an enforced period of absence from attending a Queensland state school, applied by the Principal as a consequence to address poor student behaviour. There are four types of SDA:

- Short suspension (1 to 10 school days)
- Long suspension (11 to 20 school days)
- Charge-related suspension
- Exclusion (period of not more than one year or permanently).

At Mount Mee State School, the use of any SDA is considered a very serious decision. It is typically only used by the Principal when other options have been exhausted or the student's behaviour is so dangerous that continued attendance at the school is considered a risk to the safety or wellbeing of the school community.

Parents and students may appeal a long suspension, charge-related suspension or exclusion decision. A review will be conducted by the Director-General or their delegate, and a decision made within 40 schools days to confirm, amend/vary or set aside the original SDA decision by the Principal.

The appeal process is a thorough review of all documentation associated with the SDA decision and provides an opportunity for both the school and the family to present their case in the matter. Time is afforded for collection, dissemination and response to the materials by both the school and the family. It is important that the purpose of the appeal is understood so that expectations are clear, and appropriate supports are in place to ensure students can continue to access their education while completing their SDA.

Re-entry following suspension

Students who are suspended from Mount Mee State School may be invited to attend a re-entry meeting on the day of their scheduled return to school. The main purpose of this meeting is to welcome the student, with their parent/s, back to the school. It is **not a time** to review the student's behaviour or the decision to suspend, the student has already received a punishment through their disciplinary absence from school. The aim of the

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re-entry meeting is for school staff to set the student up for future success and strengthen home-school communication.

It is not mandatory for the student or their parents to attend a re-entry meeting. It may be offered as a support for the student to assist in their successful re-engagement in school following suspension.

Arrangements
The invitation to attend the re-entry meeting will be communicated via telephone and in writing, usually via email. Re-entry meetings are short, taking less than 10 minutes, and kept small with only the Principal or their delegate attending with the student and their parent/s.

A record of the meeting is saved in OneSchool, under the Contact tab, including any notes or discussions occurring during the meeting.

Structure
The structure of the re-meeting should follow a set agenda, shared in advance with the student and their family. If additional items are raised for discussion, a separate arrangement should be made to meet with the parent/s at a later date and time. This meeting should be narrowly focussed on making the student and their family feel welcome back into the school community.

Possible agenda:

- Welcome back to school
- Check in on student wellbeing
- Discuss any recent changes to school routine or staffing
- Offer information about supports available (e.g. guidance officer)
- Set a date for follow-up
- Thank student and parent/s for attending
- Walk with student to classroom

Reasonable adjustments
In planning the re-entry meeting, school staff will consider reasonable adjustments needed to support the attendance and engagement of the student. This includes selecting an appropriate and accessible meeting space, organising translation or interpretation services or supports (e.g. AUSLAN), provision of written and/or pictorial information and other relevant accommodations. The inclusion of support staff, such as guidance officers or Community Education Counsellors, may also offer important advice to ensure a successful outcome to the re-entry meeting.

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School Policies

Mount Mee State Schoole has tailored school discipline policies designed to ensure students, staff and visitors work cooperatively to create and maintain a supportive and safe learning environment. Please ensure that you familiarise yourself with the responsibilities for students, staff and visitors outlined in the following policies:

- Temporary removal of student property
- Use of mobile phones and other devices by students
- Preventing and responding to bullying
- Appropriate use of social media

Temporary removal of student property

The removal of any property in a student's possession may be necessary to promote the caring, safe and supportive learning environment of the school, to maintain and foster mutual respect between all state school staff and students. The **Temporary removal of student property by school staff procedure** outlines the processes, conditions and responsibilities for state school principals and school staff when temporarily removing student property.

In determining what constitutes a reasonable time to retain student property, the principal or state school staff will consider:

- the condition, nature or value of the property
- the circumstances in which the property was removed
- the safety of the student from whom the property was removed, other students or staff members
- good management, administration and control of the school.

The Principal or state school staff determine when the temporarily removed student property can be returned, unless the property has been handed to the Queensland Police Service.

The following items are explicitly prohibited at Mount Mee State School and will be removed if found in a student's possession:

- illegal items or weapons (e.g. guns, knives*, throwing stars, brass knuckles, chains)
- imitation guns or weapons
- potentially dangerous items (e.g. blades, rope)
- drugs** (including tobacco)
- alcohol
- aerosol deodorants or cans (including spray paint)
- explosives (e.g. fireworks, flares, sparklers)
- flammable solids or liquids (e.g. fire starters, mothballs, lighters)
- poisons (e.g. weed killer, insecticides)
- inappropriate or offensive material (e.g. racist literature, pornography, extremist propaganda).

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* No knives of any type are allowed at school, including flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives, star knives, butter knives, fruit knives or craft knives, or any item that can be used as a weapon, for example a chisel. Knives needed for school activities will be provided by the school, and the use of them will be supervised by school staff. In circumstances where students are required to have their own knives or sharp tools for particular subjects or vocational courses, the school will provide information about the procedures for carrying and storing these items at school.

** The administration of medications to students by school staff is only considered when a prescribing health practitioner has determined that it is necessary or when there is no other alternative in relation to the treatment of a specific health need. Schools require medical authorisation to administer any medication to students (**including over-the-counter medications such as paracetamol or alternative medicines**).

Responsibilities

State school staff at Mount Mee State School

- do not require the student's consent to search school property such as lockers, desks or laptops that are supplied to the student through the school;
- may seize a student's bag where there is suspicion that the student has a dangerous item (for example, a knife) in their school bag, prior to seeking consent to search from a parent or calling the police;
- consent from the student or parent is required to examine or otherwise deal with the temporarily removed student property. For example, staff who temporarily remove a mobile phone from a student are not authorised to unlock the phone or to read, copy or delete messages stored on the phone;
- there may, however, be emergency circumstances where it is necessary to search a student's property without the student's consent or the consent of the student's parents (e.g. to access an EpiPen for an anaphylactic emergency);
- consent from the student or parent is required to search the person of a student (e.g. pockets or shoes). If consent is not provided and a search is considered necessary, the police and the student's parents should be called to make such a determination.

Parents of students at Mount Mee State School

- ensure your children do not bring property onto schools grounds or other settings used by the school (e.g. camp, sporting venues) that:
    - is prohibited according to the Mount Mee State School Student Code of Conduct
    - is illegal
    - puts the safety or wellbeing of others at risk
    - does not preserve a caring, safe, supportive or productive learning environment
    - does not maintain and foster mutual respect;
- collect temporarily removed student property as soon as possible after they have been notified by the Principal or state school staff that the property is available for collection.

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Students of Mount Mee State School

- do not bring property onto school grounds or other settings used by the school (e.g. camp, sporting venues) that:
    - is prohibited according to the Mount Mee State School Code of Conduct
    - is illegal
    - puts the safety or wellbeing of others at risk
    - does not preserve a caring, safe, supportive or productive learning environment
    - does not maintain and foster mutual respect;
- collect their property as soon as possible when advised by the Principal or state school staff it is available for collection.

Use of mobile phones and other devices by students

Digital literacy refers to the skills needed to live, learn and work in a society where communication and access to information is dominated by digital technologies like mobile phones. However, the benefits brought about through these diverse technologies can be easily overshadowed by deliberate misuse which harms others or disrupts learning.

In consultation with the broader school community, Mount Mee State School has determined that explicit teaching of responsible use of mobile phones and other devices is a critical component of digital literacy. The knowledge and confidence to navigate and use these technologies safely while developing digital literacy is a responsibility shared between parents, school staff and students.

It is also agreed that time and space should be provided at school where technology is not permitted, and students are encouraged to engage in other social learning and development activities. Students, parents and visitors will see posters, such as the example below, around the school that clearly identify our technology-free zones and times. Please respect the community agreed expectations for these spaces and behaviours.





Responsibilities

The responsibilities for students using mobile phones or other devices at school or during school activities, are outlined below.

It is **acceptable** for students at Mount Mee State School to:

- use mobile phones or other devices for
    - assigned class work and assignments set by teachers
    - developing appropriate literacy, communication and information skills
    - authoring text, artwork, audio and visual material for publication on the intranet or internet for educational purposes as supervised and approved by the school
    - conducting general research for school activities and projects
    - communicating or collaborating with other students, teachers, parents or experts in relation to school work
    - accessing online references such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias, etc.
    - researching and learning through the department's eLearning environment
- be courteous, considerate and respectful of others when using a mobile device
- switch off and place the mobile device out of sight during classes, before and after school, and during lunch breaks unless the device is being used in a teacher directed activity to enhance learning
- seek teacher's approval where they wish to use a mobile device under special circumstances.

It is **unacceptable** for students at Mount Mee State School to:

- use a mobile phone or other devices in an unlawful manner
- use a mobile phone in technology-free designated spaces or times
- download, distribute or publish offensive messages or pictures
- use obscene, inflammatory, racist, discriminatory or derogatory language
- use language and/or threats of violence that may amount to bullying and/or harassment, or even stalking
- insult, harass or attack others or use obscene or abusive language
- deliberately waste printing and internet resources
- damage computers, printers or network equipment
- commit plagiarism or violate copyright laws
- ignore teacher directions for the use of social media, online email and internet chat
- send chain letters or spam email (junk mail)
- knowingly download viruses or any other programs capable of breaching the department's network security
- use in-phone cameras anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets
- invade someone's privacy by recording personal conversations or daily activities and/or the further distribution (e.g. forwarding, texting, uploading, Bluetooth use etc.) of such material
- use a mobile phone (including those with Bluetooth functionality) to cheat during exams or assessments
- take into or use mobile devices at exams or during class assessment unless expressly permitted by school staff.

Queensland Government

At all times students, while using ICT facilities and devices supplied by the school, will be required to act in line with the requirements of Mount Mee State School Student Code of Conduct. In addition students and their parents should:

- understand the responsibility and behaviour requirements (as outlined by the school) that come with accessing the department's ICT network facilities
- ensure they have the skills to report and discontinue access to harmful information if presented via the internet or email
- be aware that:
    - access to ICT facilities and devices provides valuable learning experiences for students and supports the school's teaching and learning programs
    - the school is not responsible for safeguarding information stored by students on departmentally-owned student computers or mobile devices
    - schools may remotely access departmentally-owned student computers or mobile devices for management purposes
    - students who use a school's ICT facilities and devices in a manner that is not appropriate may be subject to disciplinary action by the school, which could include restricting network access
    - despite internal departmental controls to manage content on the internet, illegal, dangerous or offensive information may be accessed or accidentally displayed
    - teachers will always exercise their duty of care, but avoiding or reducing access to harmful information also requires responsible use by the student.

Preventing and responding to bullying

Mount Mee State School uses the Australian Student Wellbeing Framework to promote positive relationships and the wellbeing of all students, staff and visitors at the school.

Our staff know student learning is optimised when they feel connected to others and experience safe and trusting relationships. Students who feel secure are more likely to be active participants in their learning and to achieve better physical, emotional, social and educational outcomes. Teachers who feel valued and supported are more likely to engage positively with students and build stronger connections within the school community. Parents who are positively engaged with their child's education leads to improved student self-esteem, attendance and behaviour at school. Enhancing the wellbeing of students and their educators delivers overall long-term social, health and economic benefits to the Australian community.

Mount Mee State School has a Wellbeing Committee who meet with the school leadership team to promote strategies to improve student wellbeing, safety and learning outcomes. The standing items on the agenda for each Wellbeing Forum are the core elements of the Australian Student Wellbeing Framework:



1. **Leadership**
   Principals and school leaders playing an active role in building a positive learning environment where the whole school community feels included, connected, safe and respected.

2. **Inclusion**
   All members of the school community actively participating in building a welcoming school culture that values diversity, and fosters positive, respectful relationships.

3. **Student voice**
   Students actively participate in their own learning and wellbeing, feel connected and use their social and emotional skills to be respectful, resilient and safe.
4. **Partnerships**
   Families and communities collaborating as partners with the school to support student learning, safety and wellbeing.

5. **Support**
   School staff, students and families sharing and cultivating an understanding of wellbeing and positive behaviour and how this supports effective teaching and learning.

A priority for the Wellbeing Committee is contributing to the implementation of strategies that enhance wellbeing, promote safety and counter violence, bullying and abuse in all online and physical spaces. The engagement of young people in the design of technology information and digital education programs for parents was a key recommendation from the Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce report in 2018, and at Mount Mee State School we believe students should be at the forefront of advising staff, parents and the broader community about emerging issues and practical solutions suitable to different contexts.

Bullying

The agreed national definition for Australian schools describes bullying as

- ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm;
- involving an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening;
- happening in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records);
- having immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

Behaviours that do not constitute bullying include:

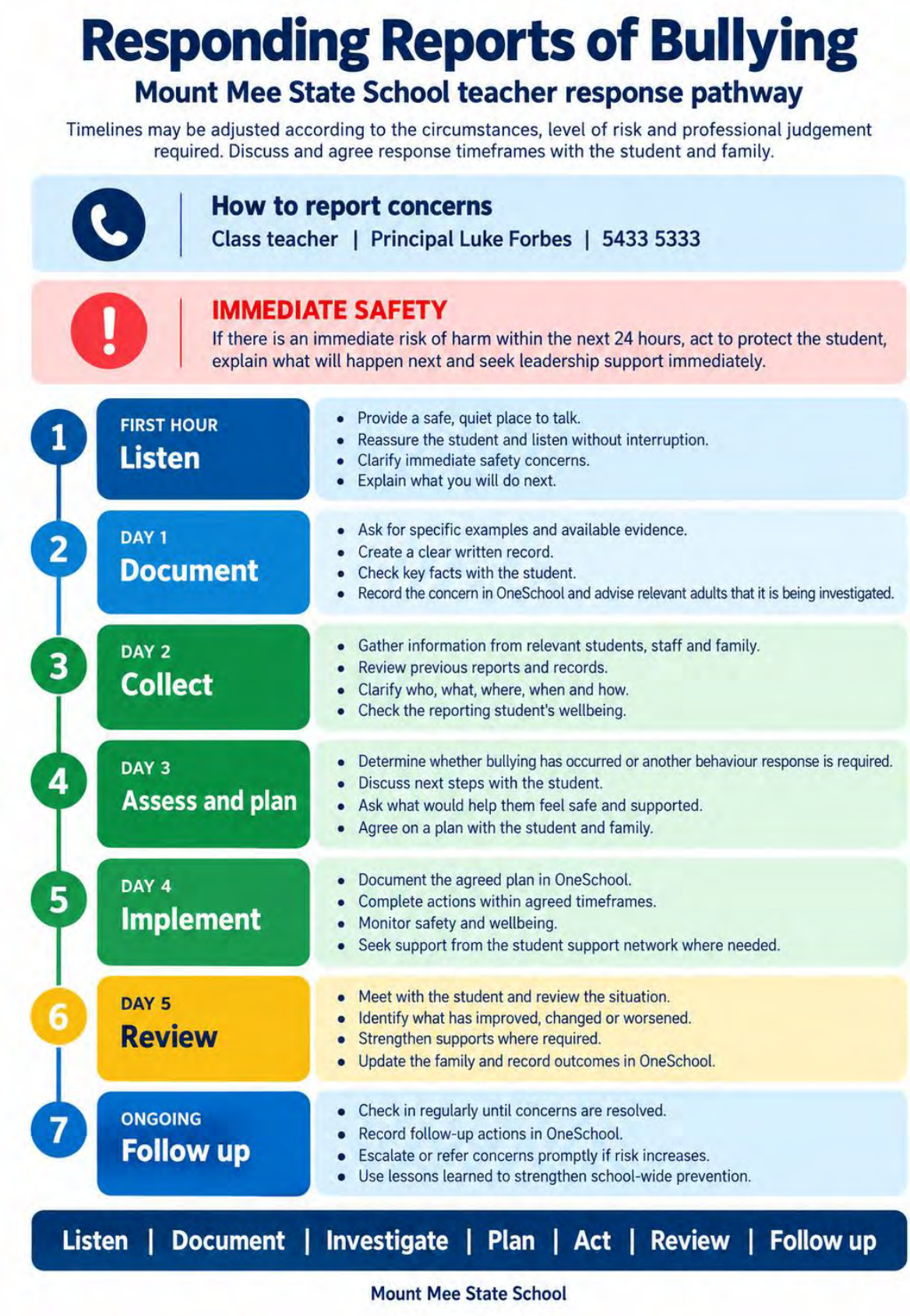
- mutual arguments and disagreements (where there is no power imbalance)
- not liking someone or a single act of social rejection
- one-off acts of meanness or spite
- isolated incidents of aggression, intimidation or violence.

However, these conflicts are still considered serious and need to be addressed and resolved. At Mount Mee State School our staff will work to quickly respond to any matters raised of this nature in collaboration with students and parents.

The following flowchart explains the actions Mount Mee State School teachers will take when they receive a report about student bullying, including bullying which may have occurred online or outside of the school setting. Please note that the indicative timeframes will vary depending on the professional judgment of teachers who receive the bullying complaint and their assessment of immediate risk to student/s.

Queensland Government

Mount Mee State school - Bullying response flowchart for teachers



Queensland Government

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is treated at Mount Mee State School with the same level of seriousness as in-person bullying. The major difference with cyberbullying however, is that unlike in-person bulling, cyberbullying follows students into their community, their homes and their bedrooms, giving them no opportunity to escape the harassment or abuse during the evening, weekends or holidays.

In the first instance, students or parents who wish to make a report about cyberbullying should approach the regular class teacher (for students in primary year levels) or the form class teacher (for students in secondary year levels). There is also a dedicated senior leadership officer, Dean of Students Malcolm Smith, who can be approached directly by students, parents or staff for assistance in preventing and responding to cyberbullying.

It is important for students, parents and staff to know that state school principals have the authority to take disciplinary action to address student behaviours that occur outside of school hours or school grounds. This includes cyberbullying. Parents and students who have concerns about cyberbullying incidents occurring during school holidays should immediately seek assistance through the Office of the e-Safety Commissioner or the Queensland Police Service.

Students enrolled at Mount Mee State School may face in-school disciplinary action, such as detention or removing of privileges, or more serious consequences such as suspension or exclusion from school for engaging in behaviour that adversely affects, or is likely to adversely affect, other students or the good order and management of the school. This includes behaviour such as cyberbullying which occurs outside of school hours or settings, for example on the weekend or during school holidays. It also applies to inappropriate online behaviour of enrolled students that is directed towards other community members or students from other school sites.

Parents or other stakeholders who engage in inappropriate online behaviour towards students, staff or other parents may be referred to the Office of the e-Safety Commissioner and/or the Queensland Police Service. State school staff will be referred for investigation to the Integrity and Employee Relations team in the Department of Education. Any questions or concerns about the school process for managing or responding to cyberbullying should be directed to the Principal – Pam Carlile.

Queensland Government

Mount Mee State School - Cyberbullying response flowchart for school staff

How to manage online incidents that impact your school

Student protection
If at any point the principal forms a reasonable suspicion that a student has been harmed or is at risk of harm, they have a responsibility to respond in accordance with the Student protection procedure.

Explicit images
If the investigation involves naked or explicit images of children, staff should not save, copy, forward or otherwise deal with the content, as per the Temporary removal of student property by school staff procedure. This includes onto OneSchool records. Refer to the investigative process outlined in 'Responding to incidents involving naked or explicit images of children' from the Online incident management guidelines.

Report
Refer to the Online incident management guidelines for more details, or if assistance is required, contact the Cybersafety and Reputation Management (CSRM)team on 3034 5035 or Cybersafety.ReputationManagement@qed.qld.gov.au.

Does the online behaviour/incident **negatively impact the good order and management** of the school?

YES OR **NO**

1. Initiate an incident response
Start an incident management log (running sheet) which records times and dates of events, observations, tasks completed, persons involved and written conversational notes.

2. Collect evidence
Gather and preserve any evidence of the online content or a potential unlawful online behaviour, where legally permissible. Confiscation of digital devices can only be done under the Temporary removal of student property by school staff procedure.

3. Is there a potential crime?
The Queensland Criminal Code contains several applicable sections for cyberbullying. A list of potential relevant criminal offences can be viewed at Appendix 3, and include:
- unlawful stalking
- computer hacking and misuse
- possession, distribution and making child exploitation material
- fraud — obtaining or dealing with identification information
- criminal defamation.

YES

Principals may start contact with a law enforcement agency (LEA) by completing an LEA referral form. Information can be shared when reasonably satisfied the disclosure is necessary for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of a criminal offence or to assist in averting a serious risk to the life, health or safety of a person or where the disclosure is in the public interest. For access to the relevant forms, refer to Disclosing personal information to law enforcement agencies procedure.

Principals may continue to investigate the matter for disciplinary purposes, subject to all laws and department procedures.

NO

Inform the student's parent/s (and student if appropriate) of their options:

1. Report the incident to an external agency such as police, Office of the eSafety Commissioner or the Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network.
2. Report the online content/behaviour using the online tools provided by the website or app.

Principals may start contact with a law enforcement agency (LEA) by completing an LEA referral form, under the Disclosing personal information to law enforcement agencies procedure. Refer back to Step 3 to report potential crimes that do not negatively impact the good order of the school.

Content may not constitute a criminal offence requiring police involvement but it may negatively impact the good order and management of the school. Principals can take action for the online behaviour as outlined below.

4. Take steps to remove the upsetting or inappropriate content
Request poster to remove, use online reporting tools or if assistance is required, contact the CSRM team or Office of eSafety Commissioner.

5. Managing student behaviour
Where the online behaviours of students do negatively impact the good order and management of the school, the principal must take appropriate follow-up action. Where appropriate:

- take statutory disciplinary action to address cyberbullying:
  - that occurs outside of school hours or school grounds that also negatively affects the good order and management of the school (e.g. where the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse have created, or would likely create a risk of, substantial disruption within the school environment, or where the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse has or might reach school premises);
  - that is undertaken on or originating from school premises during school hours, or by means of use of school ICT, concerning other students, staff or members of the school community;

OR

- use non-statutory options to deal with the matter, for example:
  - discussion with student's parents;
  - student mediation;
  - apology;
  - ICT / mobile technology ban;
  - guidance referral.

6. Student welfare
Principals must consider and support the wellbeing of any student who is displaying apparent negative effects from cyberbullying, by means of offering the student guidance officer support.

7. Recording the incident on OneSchool
If the incident was resolved at school-level, record details of the incident, as reported to the school and investigated through the incident management process, in the student's OneSchool behaviour record.

Queensland Government

Cybersafety and Reputation Management (CRM)

The Department of Education employs a dedicated team of experts to assist in maintaining the integrity of the department's reputation with regards to cybersafety and reputation management issues, effectively leading the development and implementation of departmental cybersafety processes.

This team provides **direct support for schools** to respond to concerns of inappropriate online behaviour and misuse of information and communication technology.

The team provides a guide for parents with important information about cybersafety and cyberbullying, and suggestions about what you can do if your child is a target or responsible for inappropriate online behaviour.

The team has also developed a Cyberbullying and reputation management (Department employees only) resource to assist principals in incident management.

For more information about cybersafety sessions at your school, or for assistance with issues relating to online behaviour, contact the team (Department employees only).

Student Intervention and Support Services

Mount Mee State School recognises the need to provide intervention and support to all students involved in incidents of bullying, including cyberbullying.

Students who have been subject or witness to bullying have access to a range of internal support staff, as identified in the Student Support Network section earlier in this document. Students are, however, also encouraged to approach any staff member with whom they feel comfortable sharing their concerns, regardless of their role in the school. All staff at Mount Mee State School are familiar with the response expectations to reports of bullying, and will act quickly to ensure students' concerns are addressed. Depending on the nature of the reported bullying incident, a formal plan of action may be developed and documented to support the implementation of strategies to assist the student.

Students who engage in bullying behaviours towards others will also be provided with support to assist them to use more socially acceptable and appropriate behaviours in their interactions. This includes counselling, social development programs, referral to mental health services or involvement in a restorative justice strategy. School disciplinary measures may also be used to reinforce the seriousness with which the community takes all incidents of bullying. These measures may include internal school suspension, withdrawal from social events or celebrations or more severe punishments such as suspension or exclusion from school.

Queensland Government

Mount Mee State School College – Anti-Bullying Compact

The Anti-Bullying Compact provides a clear outline of the way our community at Mount Mee State school works together to establish a safe, supportive and disciplined school environment. This compact is provided to all students and their parents upon enrolment, and may be revisited with individual students if particular problems around bullying arise.

Mount Mee State school – Anti Bullying Compact

We agree to work together to improve the quality of relationships in our community at Mount Mee State School. It is through intentional consideration of our behaviour and communication that we can reduce the occurrence of bullying, and improve the quality of the schooling experience for everyone.

The agreed national definition for Australian schools describes bullying as

- ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm;
- involving an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening;
- happening in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records);
- having immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

We believe that no one deserves to be mistreated and that everyone regardless of race, colour, religion, immigration status, nationality, size, gender, popularity, athletic capability, academic outcomes, social ability, or intelligence has the right to feel safe, secure, and respected.

I agree to:

- Treat everyone with kindness and respect.
- Abide by the school's anti-bullying policies and procedures.
- Support individuals who have been bullied.
- Speak out against verbal, relational, physical bullying and cyber bullying.
- Notify a parent, teacher, or school administrator when bullying does occur.

Student's signature

Parent's signature

School representative signature

Date

Queensland Government

Appropriate use of social media

The internet, mobile phones and social media provide wonderful opportunities for students to network and socialise online. While these technologies provide positive platforms for sharing ideas, they also have the potential to cause pain and suffering to individuals, groups or even whole communities.

It's important to remember that sometimes negative comments posted about the school community have a greater impact than expected. This guide offers some information about how to use social media in relation to comments or posts about the school community. Reputations of students, teachers, schools, principals and even parents can be permanently damaged — and in some cases, serious instances of inappropriate online behaviour are dealt with by police and the court system.

Being aware of a few simple strategies can help keep the use of social media positive and constructive:

- Before you post something online, ask yourself if the community or individual really need to know. Is it relevant, positive and helpful?
- Remember that what you post online is a direct reflection of who you are. People will potentially form lasting opinions of you based on what you post online.
- Be a good role model. If things get heated online consider logging out and taking a few moments to relax and think. Hasty, emotive responses could inflame situations unnecessarily.
- Be mindful when commenting, try to keep general and avoid posting anything that could identify individuals.
- A few years ago parents may have discussed concerns or issues with their friends at the school gate. Today with the use of social media, online discussions between you and your close friends can very quickly be shared with a much wider audience, potentially far larger than intended.
- Taking a few moments to think about the content you are about to post could save upset, embarrassment, and possible legal action.
- As a parent you have a role in supervising and regulating your child's online activities at home and its impact on the reputation and privacy of others. Parents are their child's first teachers — so they will learn online behaviours from you.

Is it appropriate to comment or post about schools, staff or students?

Parental and community feedback is important for schools and the department. If you have a compliment, complaint or enquiry about an issue at school, the best approach is to speak directly to the school about the matter, rather than discussing it in a public forum.

While many schools use social media to update parents of school notices, the department prefers that parents contact schools directly with a compliment, complaint or enquiry due to privacy considerations. Imagine if your doctor, accountant or banking institution tried to contact you to discuss important matters via Facebook.

Queensland Government

If you have raised an issue with a school or know that another person has, consider refraining from discussing those details on social media, particularly the names of anyone involved.

Keep comments calm and polite, just as you would over the telephone or by email. If you encounter negative or derogatory content online which involves the school, hinders a child's learning and/or affects the school community at large, contact the school principal.

Possible civil or criminal ramifications of online commentary

A serious instance of inappropriate online behaviour may constitute a criminal offence and become a police matter. For example, online content may substantiate the offence of 'using a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence' (Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth) s. 474.17). School staff may contact their union or obtain personal legal advice if they feel that online content seriously impacts their reputation. Defamatory online content may give rise to litigation under the Defamation Act 2005 (Qld).

What about other people's privacy?

If you upload photos of your children, be mindful of who might be in the background. You might be happy to share your child's successes with your friends and family via social media, but some parents are not. If you are tagging or naming students, consider that other parents may not want their child's name attached to images online.

What if I encounter problem content?

Taking the following steps may help resolve the issue in a constructive way:

- refrain from responding
- take a screen capture or print a copy of the concerning online content
- if you consider problem content to be explicit, pornographic or exploitative of minors, you should keep a record of the URL of the page containing that content but NOT print or share it. The URL can be provided to the school principal, or police, as needed for escalation of serious concerns
- block the offending user
- report the content to the social media provider.

Queensland Government

Restrictive Practices

School staff at Mount Mee State School need to respond to student behaviour that presents a risk of physical harm to the student themselves or others. It is anticipated that most instances of risky behaviour can be de-escalated and resolved quickly. On some rarer occasions, a student's behaviour may continue to escalate and staff need to engage immediately with positive and proactive strategies aimed at supporting the student to manage their emotional arousal and behaviour.

In some very rare situations, where there is immediate risk of physical harm to the student or other people, and when all other alternative strategies have failed to reduce the risk, it may be necessary for staff to use restrictive practices.

The use of restrictive practices will always be as a last resort, when there is no other available option for reducing immediate risk to the student, staff or other people. Restrictive practices are not used for punishment or as a disciplinary measure.

The department's **Restrictive practices procedure** is written with consideration for the protection of everyone's human rights, health, safety and welfare. There are six fundamental principles:

1. Regard to the human rights of those students
2. Safeguards students, staff and others from harm
3. Ensures transparency and accountability
4. Places importance on communication and consultation with parents and carers
5. Maximises the opportunity for positive outcomes, and
6. Aims to reduce or eliminate the use of restrictive practices.

Very rarely restrictive practices will be planned and staff will employ, when necessary, pre-arranged strategies and methods (of physical restraint/ mechanical restraint/ clinical holding) which are based upon behaviour risk assessment or clinical health need and are recorded in advance. The use of planned strategies will only be where there is foreseeable immediate risk consistent with the **Restrictive practices procedure**.

Seclusion will not be used as a planned response and will only be used in serious circumstances for managing an unforeseeable situation in an emergency. It will be used for the shortest time possible and in a safe area that presents no additional foreseeable risk to the student. In such emergencies, a staff member will observe the student at all times and seclusion will cease as soon as possible.

Following the use of any restrictive practice, a focused review will help staff to understand how they responded to the risk in any incident that involved the use of a restrictive practice. Staff will consider whether there are other options for managing a similar situation in the future. This strategy works well for reducing the use of restrictive practices.

All incidents of restrictive practices will be recorded and reported in line with departmental procedures.

Queensland Government

Critical Incidents

It is important that all school staff have a consistent understanding of how to respond in emergencies involving student behaviour that seriously endangers the student or others. This consistency ensures that appropriate actions are taken to ensure that both students and staff are kept safe.

A critical incident is defined as an occurrence that is sudden, urgent, and usually unexpected, or an occasion requiring immediate action (e.g. in the community, on the road). The aim in these situations is to bring the behaviour of the student under rapid and safe control. It is not a time to try and to punish or discipline the student; it is a crisis management period only.

Staff should follow the documented plan for any student involved in regular critical incidents, which should be saved and available for staff to review in OneSchool.

For unexpected critical incidents, staff should use basic defusing techniques:

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: At an appropriate time when there is low risk of re-escalation, 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

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