Rationale

Maryborough Education Centre (MEC) is dedicated to the values of consistency, achievement, respect, enjoyment, inclusion and safety. In line with these values we will work hard to create a caring, harmonious and friendly environment where the diversity of people and culture is appreciated, valued and celebrated. We recognise all MEC students as unique individuals bringing special qualities and gifts to share. We all have a right to be respected and have a responsibility to respect each other. Therefore bullying will not be tolerated in any form. The MEC community is committed to ensuring a safe and inclusive school environment which promotes personal growth, fosters positive self-esteem for all and recognises our goal as a learning community.

Definition

Restorative practice is a strategy that seeks to repair relationships that have been damaged, including those damaged through bullying. It does this by bringing about a sense of remorse and restorative action on the part of the offender and forgiveness by the victim.

Goals

- To provide members of the school community with a safe learning and work environment where the risk of harm is minimised and all members feel physically and emotionally secure

- To establish a school climate in which appropriate behaviour is the norm for all

- To create an atmosphere where student and parent voice is welcomed and every child and parent is heard

- To promote a community where violence, discrimination, harassment and bullying, including cyber-bullying, will not be tolerated under any circumstances

Guidelines

MEC will provide all members of the school community with a safe learning environment where the risk of harm is minimised and students feel physically and emotionally secure by:

- following restorative practices to repair harm in relationships
- maintaining a relationship-based pedagogy that contributes to student achievement and positive peer relationships
- providing support for students using effective, evidence-based approaches such as School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) processes to create a positive, safe and engaging school environment for all students
- using the school values of Consistency, Achievement, Respect, Enjoyment, Inclusion and Safety to guide positive interactions within the school community
- teaching safety, inclusion and respect through daily Values/Pathways classes protecting students through the purposeful teaching of cybersafety and responsible use of digital technologies and the internet

- using MEC mantras and expectations to create a calm and consistent environment.

- staff modelling respectful and caring interactions between staff, and with students and families.

Whole School Approach

This policy covers the whole school community, including staff, students, parents, school council members, contractors and volunteers.

Rights and Responsibilities

Every member of MEC has the right to learn and work in a safe and inclusive environment free of violence, discrimination, harassment, and bullying including cyber-bullying. Along with this right comes the responsibility to respect and promote the rights of others by behaving according to this policy.

Duty of care

Principals and teachers have duty of care to their students. The duty requires principals and teachers to take all reasonable steps to reduce risk, including the provision of suitable and safe premises and the provision of an adequate system of supervision. The duty is non-delegable, meaning that it cannot be assigned to another party.

Visitors who are attending the school to deliver incursions, presentations, seminars or other activities and programs to students will be fully supervised by school staff at all times.

Where necessary, the school will assess and verify the suitability of visitors who will work with children. The evidence required is generally a working with children check (WWC Check). However if a visitor’s occupation exempts them from the requirement to have a WWC check e.g. police officers, teachers, they must provide evidence to the school support their claim to an exemption.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s 3 year review cycle.

Signed:

Paul Rumpff
School Council President

Date: 

This policy will be ratified by School Council on Wednesday 22nd February 2017