# Rationale:

This school endeavours to promote a healthy, supportive and secure environment for all children and to raise awareness of what makes students resilient, to develop strategies to reduce vulnerabilities and increase coping skills.

Aims:

* The school is a positive environment in which all teachers assume responsibility for student welfare, endeavouring to provide successful experiences for all children, where children feel safe and secure in a supportive environment where a sense of belonging and well-being are strengthened.
* Children develop positive social behaviours and problem solving skills.
* Staff are confident, skilled and proactive in the management of student welfare issues.
* Communication processes and protocols are clear and well known to ensure the effectiveness of student welfare support.

**Implementation:**

* Student Welfare is a shared responsibility between school, home and the community.
* The school will appoint a staff member who will coordinate student welfare across the school.
* The school will implement welfare support structures and programs which prioritise and address the identified needs of individual students or the school as a whole and that help implement the aims of the policy. **Refer to:** Framework for Student Support Services 1999.
* The school will endeavour to implement and maintain programs such as:
* Cyber Smart students,
* Student of the Week Awards,
* Health Education via the Life Education Van,
* Bounce Back Program to develop resilience, social skills, conflict resolution and problem solving. Transition programs, and Implementation of Wilson McCaskill games
* The You Can Do It Program
* The school will provide the following support structures
	+ Monitoring of, and responding to, protracted student absences,
	+ Protocol for Mandatory Reporting, and
	+ Student Support Service Officers.
* The school will also access outside services to provide support for students and staff which include:
* Psychologist for psychological and academic assessment,
* Mentors — providing support for 'at risk' children,
* Social Workers to provide services such as counselling, social skills and anger management programs,
* Relevant DE& T support staff,
* C.A.S.A. [Centre Against Sexual Assault], and the
* School Nurse.
* The school will endeavour to cater for

Children identified with specific welfare issues by creating support groups, developing appropriate individual programs including goals, monitoring performance and behaviour, and providing ongoing support.

**Evaluation:**

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

 This policy was last ratified by School Council in June 2013