THORNTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

STUDENT WELFARE POLICY
Statement of Purpose
At Thornton Public School we believe that learning is a lifelong process. Within our school community, each member is recognised as an individual with potential skills, ability and gifts, which need to be shared and developed. This occurs in a cohesive, supportive, safe, fun, happy and stimulating environment where creativity and flexibility are encouraged and respected.

Our policy defines the rights and responsibilities of students, staff and parents so that the whole school community is able to cooperate and support the policy guidelines. The School Discipline Policy is distributed to all families of the school. Teachers ensure the rights and responsibilities are discussed with their classes at the beginning of each year, and at other times, to ensure maximum understanding. Students identified as experiencing emotional and/or behavioural difficulties of a long or short term nature receive additional support and care including participation in:

- Learning Support Team Referral Process
- APEEL Program
- You Can Do It Program
- EQUIP Program
- Conflict Resolution Program
- Seasons For Growth Program

Core Rules
All students in government schools are expected to:

- Attend every school day, unless they are legally excused, and be in class on time and prepared to learn.
- Maintain a neat appearance, including adhering to the requirements of the school’s uniform or dress code policy.
- Behave safely, considerately and responsibly, including when travelling to and from school.
- Show respect at all times for teachers, other school staff and helpers, including following class rules, speaking courteously and cooperating with instructions and learning activities.
- Treat one another with dignity and respect.
- Care for property belonging to themselves, the school and others.

Behaviour that infringes on the safety of others, such as harassment, bullying and illegal or anti-social behaviour of any kind, will not be tolerated.

School Values
RESPECT - Honouring the rights and feelings of others, through words and actions.
HONESTY - Being truthful, trustworthy, fair, responsible and reliable.
COOPERATION - Sharing, listening, encouraging, showing understanding, doing a fair share of the work and solving problems peacefully
CARING - Being kind, helpful and socially responsible towards others and protecting our environment from harm.
ACHIEVEMENT - Achieving personal best, being well organised and positive and having the courage to bounce back after difficult situations.

Rights and Responsibilities
Students
It is the student’s responsibility to:-

- Treat others as they themselves would like to be treated.
- Respect the rights and property of others.
- Respect school property and equipment.
- Always behave in a safe, sensible and courteous manner.
- Accept individual differences.
- Wear the school uniform with pride.
- Be truthful.
- Accept responsibility for their behaviour and actions.
- Return property that is not theirs.
- Follow teacher direction.
• Help others if they need assistance.
• Play fairly and share equipment.
• Try to sort out their problems to avoid conflict with others.
• Take pride in their classroom, playground and school environment.
• Be polite.
• Protect our natural environment.
• Play safely and care for others.
• Strive to be the best they can be.
• Take pride in themselves and their work.
• Have a go, not give up easily and learn from their mistakes.
• Be organised in order to succeed.

Adults
It is an adult responsibility to:-
• Treat others as they themselves would like to be treated.
• Recognise and acknowledge the contribution of all members of the school community.
• Act with integrity.
• Acknowledge and accept individual differences.
• Be consistent in dealings with others.
• Be truthful.
• Maintain confidentiality.
• Follow school processes in meeting responsibilities.
• Implement and take responsibility for shared decisions.
• Listen before making judgements.
• Teach and model cooperation skills.
• Try to understand and support the needs of others.
• Appreciate that happy people are better learners.
• Value the achievements of others.
• Interact in a positive way with others.
• Commit to a culture of quality and continual improvement.
• Demonstrate high expectations and standards.
• Model and teach organisational skills.
• Accept others’ efforts and provide positive feedback to children and adults.

Recognition of Student Achievement
At Thornton we believe in “catching students doing the right thing”. The use of praise and recognition for effort and achievement is integral to the school’s aim of having students perform to their personal best.

Award System
Individual Merit Awards – “White” Awards
Class and/or grade rewards – “White” Awards
• 5 White Awards equals 1 Gold Award
• Gold Awards given at our weekly assembly.
Home Reading Awards - Included in the Home Reading Diary which all students receive as part of the text book pack.
Environmental Awards
• Five “Green Awards” are given to students at recess and lunch breaks for looking after the environment
• Five “Green Awards” = 1 big environment award. This is given at the weekly Monday assembly.
Students are encouraged to earn as many of these awards as they can.

Celebrations
• Each Monday morning all students attend an assembly which recognises Gold and Environmental Awards and other group or individual achievements.
• Years 3 to 6 – participate in an assembly that highlights students’ performance
• Years K to 2 – hold regular assemblies. Each class takes turn to conduct the assembly student achievements.
• Presentation day – this is an annual event held in December that recognises Student Achievement in all aspects of school life.
Thornton Public School Discipline Code

1.0 In the Classroom
To maximise learning opportunities it is expected that students will:
- Follow the class rules.
- Treat teachers, classmates & visitors with courtesy and respect.
- Not interrupt the right of others to learn.
- Be punctual.
- Have materials/equipment necessary for lessons.
- Respect the property of the school and of others.
- Cooperate with teachers in following directions.
- Wear the school uniform.
- Provide a note to the teacher when returning from absence.
- Not bring weapons, drugs, prohibited substances or dangerous items (e.g. lighters, matchers, aerosol cans) to school.
- Avoid unsafe activity.
- Do quality work.

2.0 In the Playground
To keep our playground safe it is expected students will:
- Follow playground rules.
- Cooperate by following teacher’s directions.
- Respect the rights and property of others.
- Wear the school uniform (including the sun-safe hat).
- Avoid unsafe activity (including riding bicycles, scooters, and skateboards).
- Report any damage or dangers.
- Refrain from bullying, harassment or intimidation.
- Avoid cruelty to animals and care for our environment.
- Treat visitors with courtesy and respect.
- Remain within playground unless given a teacher’s consent.
- Not bring weapons, prohibited substances, dangerous items.

3.0 To and From School/Excursion/At Sport
To keep safe it is expected students will:
- Use transport safely.
- Respect the rights and property of others.
- Follow the road rules and wear a helmet if riding a bicycle.
- Take directions from the crossing supervisor/teacher/accompanying parent.
- Avoid all unsafe activity especially when crossing roads.
- Remember stranger danger.
- Always bring honour and respect to family and school.

4.0 Homework
To enhance learning it is expected students will:
- Complete homework on time.
- Do quality work.
- Use school property carefully & return on time (e.g. readers, library books).

Strategies When Code Is Not Followed
(May involve class meeting consequences)

1. Teacher redirects/refocuses student attention.
2. Teacher reminds student of your job/my job.
3. Continued misbehaviour
   - Time out seat. (Name in class behaviour book, develop a plan, oral or written, restitution if appropriate.)
   - Buddy class involved, behaviour note to parents, (supervisor to sign).
4. Repeat offenders
   - parent meeting with class teacher
   - parent meeting with class teacher and supervisor.
   - parent meeting with Deputy Principal
   - behaviour plan.
   - counsellor.
   - behaviour support
   - learning support team.
   - suspension warning.
   - suspension.

1. Problem discussed – student redirected.
2. Parents advised by Deputy Principal.
3. Strategy developed to monitor behaviour.
4. Repeat Offenders – Suspension Warning
   - Suspension

1. Problem discussed with student/class meeting consequence.
2. Additional time provided.
3. Meeting with parents.
4. Strategy to monitor homework.
Thornton Public School
Anti Bullying Policy

1.0 AIMS

1.1 To counter views that bullying occurs in all aspects of school life.
1.2 To provide a safe secure learning environment for all pupils.
1.3 To promote safe movement to and from school.
1.4 To encourage adults to demonstrate non-bullying behaviours.
1.5 To promote strategies to assist victims/bullies/on-lookers.
1.6 To promote school values which relate to tolerance and acceptance of differences.
1.7 To eliminate behaviours which support bullying.

2.0 IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 The school has strengthened its policy on:
   a) Parent /teacher communication
   b) Professional development for staff
   c) Documentation and monitoring of student welfare and behaviour issues
   d) Grade communication and monitoring of student welfare

2.2 All classes implement an age appropriate program.

2.3 Key features of the program:
   a) Develop an understanding of bullying
   b) Understand terms bully, victim and onlooker
   c) Promote an awareness that everyone is different – need for tolerance
   d) Explore myths about bullying
   e) Strategies to assist victims
   f) Strategies to assist bullies
   g) Strategies for onlookers
   h) Charter of Rights and Responsibilities (refer to Thornton PS Charter of Rights & Responsibilities)
   i) Debugging strategy

2.4 Key features of Staff Professional Learning
   a) Definitions of bullying (as per DET)
   b) Awareness of annual School Council survey data
   c) Understanding Charter of Rights and Responsibilities
   d) Understanding debugging strategy
   e) Strategies to assist victims
   f) Strategies to assist bullies
   g) Strategies for onlookers
   h) Integration of anti-bullying lessons into class procedures/learning
   i) Responses to bullying incidents