



Wellbeing for learning and life

Toowoomba West Special School's commitment to learning and wellbeing

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A positive school ethos and rich learning environment that is open, respectful, caring and safe optimises learning through a commitment to wellbeing.

Toowoomba West Special School does this by:

- Explicit teaching of skills associated with social and emotional learning: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making
- Our school ethos which commits to supporting students to develop to their full potential
- Inclusive practices that acknowledge individual differences and provide opportunities for all students to learn and succeed
- A Positive Behaviour Support approach to behaviour management (within our Responsible School Behaviour Plan)
- Applying consistent school-wide rules and consequences that have been collaboratively developed with the broader school community, clearly explained, positively enforced, rewarding of positive behaviours
- Developing effective Complex Case Management practices to support students and their families (e.g. with students who have complex and challenging behaviours, students with significant or deteriorating health issues)
- Supporting staff wellbeing (e.g. buddy system to support colleagues, developing procedures for debriefing after critical incidents)
- Having a focus on responsibility and decision making in order to have continued ownership of and pride in the school by all groups within the school community.

CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY

Curriculum that enhances wellbeing and equips students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and strategies to understand and manage themselves and their relationships. Pedagogy enhances wellbeing and builds positive relationships.

Toowoomba West Special School does this by:

- Prioritising the development of students' communication skills at their respective levels (speech and language skills, Picture Exchange Communication System, Intensive Interaction) to facilitate maximum independence
- Emphasising physical fitness / healthy lifestyles to support health and wellbeing e.g. Smart Moves, HPE curriculum
- extracurricular activities for students which include school camp, excursions into the community, swimming and hydrotherapy programs
- providing adequate training and resources for staff
- reinforcing positive behaviour through a consistent system of recognition and rewards for both learning and behaviour.
- Students engaging in curriculum which caters for their individual learning needs. This can include: engaging in Australian Curriculum content at an appropriate level, social skilling programs, life skills training programs, Boys and Girls sexual health programs
- Organising our school to facilitate flexible groupings depending on the developmental levels and pedagogical requirements of individual students at different times.
- Using a range of pedagogical practices to reinforce the acquisition of skills and knowledge e.g. Social Stories, ICTs, symbolised communication systems, visual schedules.





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POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy intentions are transformed into action by school staff, students and the wider community.

Toowoomba West Special School does this by:

- Our Support Services Team which meets monthly to case manage students / families who have issues of concern.
- Providing or advocating to access additional supports for students when needed
- Our Responsible Behaviour Support Plan which utilises a Positive Behaviour Support approach to developing appropriate behaviours. This is a positive rather than 'punitive' approach to developing positive behaviours.
- Developing processes and implementing them using teams of people best suited to the task to ensure all students' right to learn – e.g. Support Services Team, Guidance Officer, School Nurse, Therapy support, Continence Nurse, targeted intervention.
- Evaluating and assessing whole school, cohort and individual student performance against benchmarks and indicators, via interrogation of data (e.g. moderation of Intensive Interaction video data).

PARTNERSHIPS

Productive partnerships expand the knowledge, skills and resources available in the school

Toowoomba West Special School does this by:

- Creating a significant sense of recognition and belonging among all groups within the school which in turn reinforces our school's identity
- Developing positive relationships with our students and partnerships with their families to support wellbeing through acknowledging and valuing parents as an integral part of their child's education
- Ensuring relevant and timely communication between the teacher, the child and parents / caregivers
- Developing effective relationships with agencies beyond the school with which we can link our families for support
- A strong Support Services Team which meets monthly to supports students and their families (includes Principal, Deputy Principal, School Nurse, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapists, Speech-Language Pathologist, Guidance Officer, Nurse Co-ordinator from Qld Health).
- Sourcing productive training and professional development within the community which can support staff to deliver programs effectively
- Ensuring staff mental health and wellbeing is maintained by implementing initiatives to sustain a positive school morale.

