****

**GUNNEDAH PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**(DRAFT) STUDENT WELFARE AND DISCIPLINE POLICY**

**Purpose:**

At Gunnedah Public School an effective Student Welfare and Discipline Policy underpins quality learning and teaching and the achievement of positive outcomes for students.

Gunnedah Public School seeks to provide quality education for all students, taking account of their age, background, ability and interests. The school helps students to become self-directed, lifelong learners who can create a positive future for themselves and for the wider community. For this to occur, Gunnedah Public School needs to be a place where every student can learn and grow with confidence. Students develop best in schools where teaching and learning occur in a context of student welfare.

Schools need to be safe and happy places for students and their teachers. Student welfare is enhanced when all members of the school community participate in the learning programs and life of the school.

**Date Implemented:**

30 March 2016

**Expectations:**

* Student Welfare encompasses everything the school community does to meet the personal, social and learning needs of students. It:
  + creates a safe, caring school environment in which students are nurtured as they learn,
  + is achieved through the total school curriculum and the way it is delivered,
  + incorporates effective discipline,
  + incorporates preventive health and social skills programs,
  + stresses the value of collaborative early intervention when problems are identified,
  + provides ongoing educational services to support students,
  + recognises the diversity within the school community and provides programs and support which acknowledge difference and promote harmony,
  + recognises the role that the school plays as a resource to link families with community support services, and
  + provides opportunities for students to:
    - enjoy success and recognition,
    - make a useful contribution to the life of the school, and
    - derive enjoyment from their learning.
* Gunnedah Public School provides effective learning and teaching within secure, well-managed environments, in partnership with parents/carers and the wider school community.
* Gunnedah Public School will:
  + promote a safe, supportive and caring learning environment where the safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community are paramount,
  + promote self-control, respect, acceptable behaviour and appropriate social interactions amongst all students and in all facets of school life,
  + support quality teaching and learning and assist in maximising each student’s outcomes,
  + enhance effective teaching and learning by encouraging students to take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour,
  + ensure that learning activities build on prior knowledge and experiences that are socially and culturally relevant and inclusive,
  + establish clear rules which are communicated to all community members,
  + identify key social skills and develop plans for all students to acquire them, or make progress towards them, and
  + establish and maintain high expectations and support the learning potential of all students.
* Gunnedah Public School recognises that its members have a right to work and play without disruption in a positive, safe, secure and accepting environment.
* We base the policy on the following Departmental Core Rules and Gunnedah Public School’s Core Beliefs and Principles :
  + **Department of Education Core Rules:**
    - All students in NSW government schools are expected to:
      * Attend school 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.
  + **Gunnedah Public School Expectations :**
    - At Gunnedah Public School, Staff will:
      * Be respectful and professional.
      * Encourage, engage and support all students.
      * Work in partnership with families and the community.
      * Ensure the safety of all students.
    - At Gunnedah Public School, Students will:
      * Be respectful of others
      * Follow all teacher instructions
      * Be ready to learn and always do their best
      * Care for school property and school grounds
    - At Gunnedah Public School, Families will:
* Be respectful of others
* Encourage and support their child’s learning
* Work in partnership with school staff
* Help their child to be organised and ready to learn
* *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.*

**This Policy Complies With (DEC):**

This school is part of the state education system and is bound by the policy statements issued by the Department of Education and Communities, in particular those referred to on the “School Policies and Procedures” webpage under

Student Discipline In Government Schools: <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/student_serv/discipline/stu_discip_gov/PD20060316.shtml?level=Schools&categories=Schools%7cstudent+administration%7cdiscipline+%26+behaviour>

Good Discipline and Effective Learning, Student Welfare Policy: <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/student_serv/student_welfare/stude_welf/pd02_52_student_welfare.pdf>

**Date Of Review:**

February 2017