

## Rationale

The Deutsche Schule Melbourne – A German International School aims to create and maintain a learning environment that facilitates development of the whole child, in a bilingual and multicultural environment. Teachers will cater for students with different learning abilities, interest and needs.

DSM promotes a healthy, supportive and secure environment for all students and aims to raise awareness of what makes students resilient, to develop strategies to reduce vulnerabilities, to build student/school connectedness, and to increase coping skills. DSM will offer programs to enable students to further their learning by complementing classroom lessons with experts and resources from outside the immediate school community. External providers may also provide care outside of school hours.

## Principles

All students have the right to feel and be safe in the framework of programs offered by DSM and in those offered by external providers. Reference is also made to DSM's Welfare Policy.

## Goals

- The school is a positive environment in which all teachers assume responsibility for student welfare, endeavouring to provide successful experiences for all students, where students feel and are safe and secure in a supportive environment and where a sense of belonging and wellbeing is strengthened.
- Students 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.
- To reinforce, complement and extend learning opportunities beyond the classroom.
- To develop an understanding that learning is not limited to school and teachers, and that valuable and powerful learning is often achieved with other people and experiences.

- To provide a high quality before and/or after school service for students which is community based, complies with all regulations, is flexible and meets each student's need for care in a creative, stimulating and secure environment before and after school.

## Strategies

- Student Welfare is a shared responsibility between school, home and the community.
- The school will adopt a proactive and strategic stance with issues of student welfare.
- The school may access outside services to provide support for students and staff which may include:
  - Psychologists
  - Counsellors
  - Teachers
  - Mentors
  - Social workers
  - Youth agencies
  - Local parent support groups
  - Organisations such as Centre Against Sexual Assault
  - School Nurses
  - Child cares services
- The school board must approve all external providers.
- Co-ordination of the external providers will rest with the Head Teacher.
- All external providers must meet all regulatory requirements.
- The school board will ensure that professional indemnity, public liability, building and contents and any other necessary insurance is sufficient to cover the needs of programs offered by external providers.
- Students will attend programmes offered by external providers only with the express prior written consent of their parents.
- Students who do not attend an activity provided by an external provider during school hours will be provided with suitable alternative activities.
- DSM will offer an out of hours care programme that complies with the National Standards for Childcare Services.
- An external provider may provide the programme.

- DSM will ensure that the programme will comply with all regulations, standards and requirements for Out of Hours Care programmes as required by the Department of Family & Community Services, the National Childcare Accreditation Council and local government.
- DSM will strive to ensure that the out of hours care programme meets the highest level of Quality Assurance with the National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC).
- A qualified, skilled and dedicated programme coordinator will be appointed by the school board to work in partnership with the Head Teacher (and, if applicable, the external provider) for the purposes of managing all aspects of the out of hours care programme.
- DSM will ensure that the finances of the programme are prudently managed and that the programme is appropriately staffed and well resourced.
- All concerns relating to the programme will initially be directed to the programme manager, and if unresolved, the Head Teacher and the school board will deal with the matter.

#### **Date**

August 2007

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