NSW Department of Education

Fernhill School Behaviour Support and Management Plan

Overview

Fernhill School is committed to explicitly teaching and modelling positive behaviour and to supporting all students to be engaged with their learning.

Our goal is to inspire every child to participate positively in the school community and beyond. We focus on promoting excellence, opportunity and success for every student, every day. We value and strive to develop safe, respectful learners in a caring learning community.

Principles of positive behaviour support, trauma-informed practice, inclusive practice, and social emotional learning underpin our daily practice. High expectations for student behaviour are established and maintained through effective role modelling, explicit teaching, and planned responses.

To achieve our mission, key programs prioritised and valued by the school community are:

- Interoception
- SoSAFE

These programs prioritise social and emotional learning which supports good mental health, positive relationships and supports prevention of bullying.

Fernhill School rejects all forms of bullying behaviours, including online (or cyber) bullying by maintaining a commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning community that promotes student wellbeing. Staff are committed to establishing evidence-based approaches and strategies that promote a positive climate where bullying is less likely to occur.

All members of the school community are active participants in building a welcoming school culture that values diversity and fosters positive relationships. A key component of a supportive school culture is building respectful relationships and an ethos that bullying is not accepted, in both online and offline environments. School staff actively respond to student bullying behaviour.

Partnership with parents and carers

Fernhill School will partner with parents/carers in establishing expectations for engagement in developing and implementing student behaviour management and antibullying strategies, by:

- inviting parent/carer and student feedback through formal and informal means, such as Tell Them From Me surveys, school surveys, consulting with the P & C and local AECG
- using concerns raised through complaints procedures to review school systems, data and practices.

Fernhill School will communicate these expectations to parents/carers through the school newsletter and school website. Our school proactively builds collaborative relationships with families and communities to create a shared understanding of how to support student learning, safety and wellbeing.

School-wide expectations and rules

Fernhill School has the following school-wide expectations and rules:

All students are encouraged to be ready to learn, use communication strategies and respect the space of others

Be ready to learn	Be a communicator	Be safe
Use my toolbox	Use my communication system	Stay in my own space

Behaviour Code for Students

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

The Behaviour Code for Students can be found at https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policyprocedures/pd-2006-0316/pd-2006-0316-01. This document translated into multiple languages is available here: Behaviour code for students.

Whole school approach across the care continuum

Our school embeds student wellbeing and positive behaviour approaches and strategies in practices across the care continuum to promote positive behaviour and respond to behaviours of concern, including bullying and cyberbullying behaviour.

These approaches and strategies are built on a foundation of evidence-based effective classroom practices that set the tone for engagement with learning and respectful relationships. These practices include:

- stating and explicitly teaching classroom expectations
- establishing predictable routines and procedures that are communicated clearly to students
- encouraging expected behaviour with positive feedback and reinforcement
- discouraging inappropriate behaviour
- providing active supervision of students
- maximising opportunities for active engagement with learning
- providing carefully sequenced engaging lessons that provide options for student choice
- differentiating learning content and tasks to meet the needs of all students.

Care Continuum	Strategy or Program	Details	Audience
Prevention	The Zones of Regulation	The Zones of Regulation is a framework that helps individuals, especially children, recognise and manage their emotions and behaviours by categorising them into four coloured zones. The Blue Zone signifies low energy states such as sadness or boredom, while the Green Zone represents optimal emotional regulation, indicating calmness and focus. The Yellow Zone indicates heightened emotions like frustration or anxiety, where individuals may struggle with concentration. Lastly, the Red Zone signifies extreme emotions and loss of control, such as anger or panic, leading to disruptive behaviours. This framework provides a systematic way for individuals to identify their feelings, understand how these emotions affect their behaviour, and develop self-regulation strategies to transition towards the Green Zone, included in each students' regulation toolbox.	All
Early intervention	Ready to learn plans	Each student has a ready to learn plan that is regularly updated, and shared with parents at the start of each year. The plan is linked to the Zones of Regulation and has strategies for staff to help each student, matched to the specific areas of the Zones and to the specific interests and needs of the student.	All
Targeted intervention	Learning and support	The LST works with students, staff, families and therapists to support students who require complex personalised support.	All
Individual intervention	Individual behaviour support planning	This may include developing, implementing, monitoring and reviewing: behaviour support, behaviour response and risk management plans.	Individual students, parent/carer, therapists, DP

Planned responses to positive appropriate behaviour, inappropriate behaviour and behaviours of concern, including bullying and cyber-bullying

Identifying behaviour of concern, including bullying and cyberbullying

A behaviour of concern is challenging, complex or unsafe behaviour that requires more persistent and intensive interventions. A behaviour of concern does not include low-level inappropriate or developmentally appropriate behaviour. Bullying behaviour involves the intentional misuse of power in a relationship, is ongoing and repeated and involves behaviour that can cause harm. See Appendix 1.

Fernhill School staff will staff will identify inappropriate behaviour and behaviours of concern, including bullying and cyber-bullying through a range of channels, for example:

- directly observing a student's behaviours, interactions, verbal communications, or work produced (such as written materials, performances or artworks)
- a person disclosing information that is not previously known, either because it is new information or because it has been kept a secret
- concerns raised by a parent, community member or agency.

Students or parents can report bullying to any staff member. NSW public school principals have the authority to take disciplinary action to address student behaviours that occur outside of school hours or school grounds, including cyberbullying. Students who have been bullied will be offered appropriate support, for example through the school counselling service.

Responses to all behaviours of concern apply to student behaviour that occurs:

- at school
- on the way to and from school
- on school-endorsed activities that are off-site
- outside school hours and off school premises where there is a clear and close connection between the school and students' conduct
- when using social media, mobile devices and/or other technology involving another student or staff member.

Preventing and responding to behaviours of concern

Planned responses to behaviour that does not meet school expectations are either teacher or executive managed. Staff use their professional judgement in deciding whether a behaviour is teacher managed or executive managed. They should consider whether the behaviour poses a risk to the safety or wellbeing of the student or others.

- Teacher managed – low level inappropriate behaviour is managed by teachers in the classroom and the playground.
- Executive managed – behaviour of concern is managed by school executive.

Corrective responses are recorded on Behaviour / wellbeing ITD system. These include:

Classroom	Non-classroom setting
• re-direct • offer choice • error correction • prompts • reteach • seat change • communication with parent/carer.	• re-direct • offer choice • error correction • prompts • reteach • play or playground re-direction • walk with teacher • communication with parent/carer.

Fernhill School staff model, explicitly teach, recognise and reinforce positive student behaviour and behavioural expectations.

We acknowledge that not all students are encouraged by the same thing or in the same ways. When learning new skills, students need immediate and frequent reinforcement and as they develop mastery they respond to intermittent and long-term reinforcement to maintain their social behavioural efforts.

The use of verbal and non-verbal specific positive feedback is the most powerful way to:

- help adults and learners to focus on positive social behaviour
- increase the likelihood that students will use the expected behaviours and skills in the future
- decrease unexpected behaviour and reduce the need for corrective responses
- enhance self-esteem and build an internal focus of control.

Prevention Responses to recognise and reinforce positive, inclusive and safe behaviour	**Early Intervention** Responses to minor inappropriate behaviour	**Targeted/Individualised** Responses to behaviours of concern
Behaviour expectations are taught and referred to regularly. Teachers model behaviours and provide opportunities for practice. Students are acknowledged for meeting school-wide expectations and rules.	Refer to school-wide expectations and/or emotional regulation visuals and/or supports so that the student can self-regulate.	Contact office to seek help from executive straight away if there is a risk. Otherwise notify student's stage supervisor or executive ASAP and before the end of the school day.
Verbal and non-verbal specific positive feedback .	Use indirect responses including proximity, signals, non-verbal cues, ignore, attend, praise, redirect with specific corrective feedback.	Executive/CT to take immediate steps to restore safety and return the situation to calm by using appropriate strategies such as: redirecting to another area or activity, providing reassurance or

		offering choices. Incident review and planning is scheduled for a later time, determined by the context and nature of the incident.
Teacher/parent contact	Teacher/parent contact	Teacher/parent contact
Teacher contact through the parent portal or phone calls home are used to communicate student effort to meet expectations.	Teacher contacts parents by phone or email when a range of corrective responses have not been successful. Individual planning and referral to Learning Support Team may be discussed.	Parent/carer contact is made by school executive to discuss any support and behaviour responses, including referral to the LST, school counsellor, outside agencies or Team Around a School.

Responses to serious behaviours of concern

- [list the process the school will take to respond to serious behaviours of concern]
- The NSW Department of Education Student Behaviour policy and Suspension and Expulsion procedures apply to all NSW public schools.
- Responses to all behaviours of concern apply to student behaviour that occurs:
  - at school
  - on the way to and from school
  - on school-endorsed activities that are off-site
  - outside school hours and off school premises where there is a clear and close connection between the school and students' conduct
  - when using social media, mobile devices and/or other technology involving another student or staff member.

Reporting and recording behaviours of concern

Staff will comply with reporting and responding processes outlined in the:

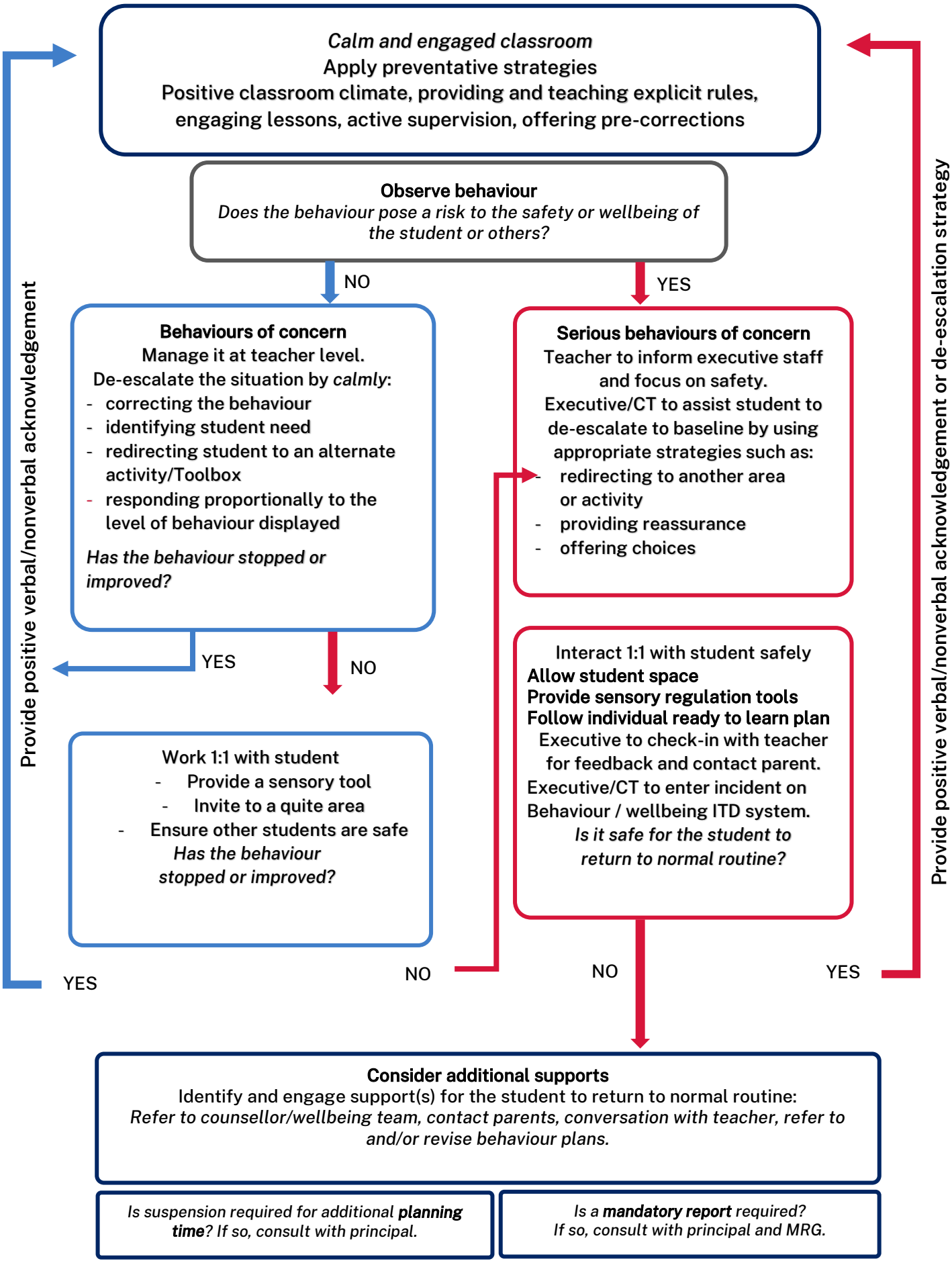
- Incident Notification and Response Policy
- Incident Notification and Response Procedures
- Student Behaviour policy and Suspension and Expulsion procedures.

Review dates

Last review date: Day 1, Term 1, 2025

Next review date: Day 1, Term 1, 2026

Appendix 1: Behaviour management flowchart (Alternative example)



Appendix 2: Bullying Response Flowchart

First hour: Listen
- Identify bullying behaviour, including cyber-bullying
- Provide a safe, quiet space to talk and reassure the student that you will listen to them
- Let them share their experience and feelings without interruption
- As a mandatory reporter, if you hold immediate concerns for the student's safety, let the student know how you will address these. Immediate in this circumstance is where the staff member believes the student is likely to experience harm (from others or self) within the next 24 hours.

Day 1: Document
- Ask the student / parent / staff for examples they have of the alleged bullying (e.g. hand written notes or screenshots)
- Write a record of your communication with the student
- Enter the record in School Bytes
- Notify school executive of incident if required in line with behaviour management flowchart
- Notify parent/s that the issue of concern is being investigated

Day 2: Collect
- Gather additional information from other students, staff or family
- Review any previous reports or records for students involved
- Make sure you can answer who, what, where, when and how
- Clarify information with student and check on their wellbeing

Day 3: Discuss
- Evaluate the information to determine if it meets the definition of bullying (see above)
- Make a time to meet with the student to discuss next steps
- Ask the student what they believe will help address the situation
- Engage the student as part of the solution
- Provide the student and parent with information about student support network
- Agree to a plan of action and timeline for the student, parent and yourself

Day 4: Implement
- Document the plan of action School Bytes
- Complete all actions agreed with student and parent within agreed timeframes
- Monitor student and check in regularly on their wellbeing
- Seek assistance from student support network if needed

Day 5: Review
- Meet with the student to review situation
- Discuss what has changed, improved or worsened
- Explore other options for strengthening student wellbeing or safety
- Report back to parent
- Record outcomes in School Bytes

Ongoing follow-up
- Continue to check in with student on regular basis until concerns have been mitigated
- Record notes of follow-up meetings in School Bytes
- Refer matter to the Learning and Support Team within 48 hours if the situation is not resolved
- Look for opportunities to improve school wellbeing for all students