



COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES & SCHEDULE POLICY

Policy & Guidance

- It is essential that the school communicates information in a timely manner to all stakeholders in accordance with established protocols, to protect the rights of individuals, to uphold our duty of care to students and to comply with departmental and legal requirements.

Purpose

- To ensure that the communication of information at Footscray North Primary School is carried out correctly and in a manner that complies with school, departmental and legal requirements.
- To ensure all stakeholders are provided with information in a timely and effective manner.
- To ensure appropriate ongoing training is provided to all staff, teaching and non-teaching, and to new staff members as part of the induction process.

Implementation

- The school has a policy of open and cooperative communication. However, this practice recognises that the school has legal, departmental, local, professional and social obligations with regard to the communication of information.
- Parents/carers are readily able to communicate with teachers face-to-face at any mutually agreeable time throughout the school year, electronically by sending an email through to the school's email account, or in written format directly to the teacher.
- We value and actively seek input from all in our school community with the primary approach to seeking parental input through the members of School Council.
- Broader consultation throughout the school community will be undertaken where required and this consultation will be inclusive and non-discriminatory.
- It is important to note that consultation does not mean decision making. Nor does it equate that decision-making will simply be based on popularity of ideas or weight of numbers.
- DET employees are free to make public comment on issues relating to education, but in doing so, must be wary not to make comments that can be construed as negative criticism of our school, School Council, our community, staff or community members.
- As a matter of professional courtesy, and as a requirement of Section 3.6 of the Teaching Services (Conduct of Duties) Order 1998 staff will communicate with the Principal before making public comment or formal statement on educational issues or that bears on the organisation or program of the school or place of work. The Principal and School Council President will ensure that each other are informed.
- In providing advice to students, teachers should limit their advice to areas within their professional knowledge, ensure it is given in situations arising from a role specified by the Principal and ensure such advice is correct and in line with the most recent available statements. Please refer to the school's *Duty of Care Policy*.
- The *Privacy & Data Protection Act 2014* and the *Health Records Act* require that schools protect the interests of individuals with regard to their personal information and respect

the individual's right to control how their personal information is used, and for what purpose.

- The school will only collect consensual information that it requires about individuals, and will only communicate and disclose information for the purposes for which it was collected.
- Any person seeking information from the school that falls outside the school's previous practices must be directed to the Principal who may require that a formal written Freedom of Information request be made.
- All such Freedom of Information requests will be referred to the Manager, Freedom of Information and Privacy Unit.
- Information sought by police, including interviews of students must be directed to the Principal.
- Requests from Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Child Protection Unit personnel regarding students or families will be complied with at all times. Please refer to the school's Police & DHHS Interviews Policy.
- The school will comply with court subpoenas to provide information at all times, but will not respond to requests from lawyers seeking information without DET approval.
- Action may be taken by individuals, the Department or organisations against staff members who choose to communicate information improperly.
- The school will table its Annual Report to the School Community at an open meeting of the School Council as soon as all components are finalised. This report will subsequently be made available to all in our community through the school's website. The content of the Annual Report will reflect the requirements of the DET.
- School Council records, other than documents provided to the DET or Regional Office, are not available to the general community. Please refer to the school's *School Council Liability & Legal Proceedings Policy*.
- We will provide a minimum of two comprehensive written reports, one parent/carer - teacher interview for students in June with an option for a second in December and additional interviews upon request.
- The school will identify those aspects of its policies and procedures which must be communicated to staff and parents/carers. Please refer to the attached Communication Schedule.
- The school will identify the staff training that is required and who will be responsible for providing the training.
- Staff members may not communicate to students or parents/carers by any form of social media. Please refer to the school's *Staff Code of Conduct (General) Policy*.
- Please refer also to the *Policy Development & Review Policy*.
- The school has developed a schedule for dissemination of this information and for the associated training. Please see below.

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle or if guidelines change (no specific DET reference).

Mandatory for VRQA Purposes

Reference:
Nil

Child Safe Policies	Parents	Yes	Copy to parents on enrolment Annually	Principal Assistant Principal Member of the Leadership Team Induction Coordinator
	Staff/Volunteers	Yes	New staff/volunteers as part of the induction process	
Complaints, Parents	Parents	Yes	Newsletter articles on how to make complaints at this school beginning each semester	ES Staff
Emergency & Critical Incident Management	Staff	Yes	Practice emergency procedures once per term	Emergency Management Coordinator ES Staff
	Parents	Yes	Newsletter articles after each drill	
Privacy & Information Sharing Policy	Parents	No	Copy of policy on enrolment	Principal / Assistant Principal Member of the Leadership Team Induction Coordinator
	Staff	Yes	Annual briefing New staff as part of the induction process	
Photographing, Filming & Recording Children	Parents	Yes	Copy of policy on enrolment Reminder newsletter articles beginning each semester and before school photos are taken	Principal / Assistant Principal ES Staff
Supervising Students	Parents	Yes – please do not discuss student issues with staff on yard duty	Newsletter articles beginning each semester	ES Staff
	Staff	Yes	New staff as part of the induction process	Induction Coordinator
Gifts, Benefits & Hospitality Policy	Staff	Yes	New staff as part of the induction process	Induction Coordinator
	School Council	Yes	Annually	Principal
Vision, Mission & Values	Staff	Yes	New staff as part of the induction process	Induction Coordinator
	Parents	Yes	Displayed strategically throughout the school and discussed if required with prospective parents	Principal / Assistant Principal
Risk Management - Schools	Staff	Yes	New staff as part of the induction process	Induction Coordinator
Dangerous Goods/ Hazardous Substances	Staff	Yes – what chemicals may or may not be brought into the school	New staff as part of the induction process	Induction Coordinator
Health Care Needs Policy	Parents	No	When a student with a specific medical need presents for enrolment	Principal / Assistant Principal

Mobile Phones – Student Use	Parents Students Staff	Yes	Copy of policy on enrolment Reminder newsletter articles beginning each semester Class teachers to brief students as part of the yearly commencement procedures New staff as part of the induction process	Principal / Assistant Principal ES Staff Class Teachers Induction Coordinator
Homework	Parents Students Staff	Yes	Copy of policy on enrolment Information about work requirements as applicable	Principal / Assistant Principal ES Staff
Drug Education/Use	Staff	Yes	Annual briefing New staff as part of the induction process	Member of the Leadership Team Induction Coordinator
Duty of Care	Staff	Yes	Annual briefing with a copy of this policy provided and placed on the intranet New staff as part of the induction process	Member of the Leadership Team Induction Coordinator
Parent Payments	Parents	Yes	Policy and information re school payments for the following year at least six weeks before the end of the school year	School Council Principal
Bullying Prevention & Response	Parents Staff/Volunteers	Yes Yes	Copy of policy on enrolment Annual briefing New staff/volunteers as part of the induction process	Principal / Assistant Principal Member of the Leadership Team Induction Coordinator
Student Wellbeing & Engagement	Parents Staff	Yes Yes	Copy of policy on enrolment Annual briefing New staff as part of the induction process	Principal / Assistant Principal Member of the Leadership Team Induction Coordinator
Smoking Ban	Parents Staff	Yes Yes	Copy of policy on enrolment Annual briefing New staff as part of the induction process	Principal / Assistant Principal Member of the Leadership Team Induction Coordinator
Uniform/Dress Code	Parents	Yes	Copy of policy on enrolment	Principal / Assistant Principal
Staff Leave	Staff	Yes	New staff as part of the induction process	Induction Coordinator

Passwords Policy	Staff	Yes	Twice yearly briefing with copy on the intranet New staff/volunteers as part of the induction process	ICT Coordinator
Running Away from School	Staff	Yes	Twice yearly briefing New staff/volunteers as part of the induction process	Principal / Assistant Principal