Positive Mental Health Policy

Williamstown High School
At Williamstown High School We Value:

I. Excellence and creativity in our achievements and ambitions.
II. Integrity and honesty in our actions and relationships.
III. Diversity in our curriculum, in each other and in our community.
IV. Strong and open communication between our school and our homes, and between our teachers, our students and our families.
V. A commitment to social justice and a passion to protect and improve our environment and our community.

Rationale

Prevention: To build resilience and the capacity to prevent mental health issues. To provide all staff and specifically the wellbeing team with the knowledge and understanding of how to recognise and support a young person with mental health issues.

Postvention: To have a suicide postvention plan that outlines the essential tasks and indicates clear roles for the emergency response team.

Purpose

To create awareness of mental health issues, and promote positive mental health and ensure all members of the school community have an understanding of how to support someone who has a mental health issue. To provide students with a clear understanding of how they can access support for a mental health issue and what resources are available.

Implementation

I. Incursions at each year level to raise awareness of mental health.
II. Student Wellbeing team to undertake regular professional development.
III. Have a Student Welfare Coordinator on each campus who has direct links to community liaison support.
IV. Clear links with outside and community agencies such as Hobson’s Bay Youth Services and Headspace to ensure parents are engaged and informed in how to support a young person with mental health issues.
V. Best Practice model that has strategies to support and promote positive mental health. (Please see appendix)
VI. A suicide postvention response plan that clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of the emergency response team. (Please see appendix)
**Evaluation & Review:**

The policy was reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle. School Council was advised on the 22 October 2013. The next review will be 2016.

**Definitions & References:** As per the school’s consultative process

**Consultative Process:** The process was undertaken by the delegated staff at the School and via the Education Policy Committee.

**Ratification:**

This policy was last ratified by School Council in October 2013.