



Stella Maris Primary School

Student Buddy Program Policy

Rationale

The Buddy Program is based on the principle that we learn information and values from each other. The Buddy Program is designed to provide support between junior and senior students. By applying the student-help-student principle, it empowers our students to grow in confidence and responsibility. We believe this program is an effective educational tool and can improve the relationships in the school. It improves communication between children and promotes healthy relationships.

Aims

- To provide positive support and friendship
- To adjust easily to a new grade or school
- To develop responsibility, self-confidence and leadership qualities
- To learn ways of relating positively to others
- To contribute to a spirit of community
- To enhance self-awareness, self-esteem and communication skills

Implementation

- Children will participate in the program in their buddy groups.
- An older grade will be paired with a younger grade.
- A range of co-operative learning activities and group tasks will be organised by the classroom teachers or Wellbeing Leader.
- A leadership role will be encouraged with the older children.
- Classes aim to meet at least twice a term.
- Teachers from each of the buddy grades will organise a mutually suitable time to conduct these sessions.
- On Nazareth Day, each year, the students from P-6 will work with children from St. Joseph's Black Rock.

Program

Activities will develop co-operative learning, promote trust, co-operation, communication, social skills, leadership and problem solving.

In the first weeks of school the Year 6 students will be asked to orientate the Preps. They will be a source of contact during this transition time, when the preps may not have the confidence to speak to the Yard Duty Teacher. The Preps will be encouraged, by their buddies, to play with other Preps and not become overly reliant on the Year 6's.

Activities may include: Multicultural day activities, sporting tabloids, reading, walk to Beaumaris Library, I.C.T., shared lunch, E-mail pals, Cross curricula, Special events such as the Easter Hat Parade and Year 6 Graduation, attendance at Mass together.

The swimming program in Term 2 provides an opportunity for the Year 6 students to model behaviours on the bus, entering and leaving the pool and in the change rooms. The Principal or Deputy will brief the Year 6 students about their responsibilities in verbally instructing the Preps on how to dress themselves and for the Year 6's not to dress the Preps. This will promote independence.

Evaluation

The staff members will evaluate the program upon its completion, collecting feedback from the students. This evaluation will guide future planning and programming for the Buddy Program.

Resources

Peer Support Victoria, Peer Support Program – Resource Book for Schools.
Wellbeing Leader.

Friendly Kids, Friendly Classrooms: Teaching Social Skills and Confidence in the Classroom
by Helen McGrath and Shona France.



This policy was ratified in 2008

This policy will be reviewed biannually

This policy was last updated in 2016