



Child Safe Empowerment Policy (Participation of Children)

Children have the right to give their views and opinions about decisions that affect them and to be listened to.

Empowerment is about helping children to have their say. Acting to empower children should always guide the work of Berwick Chase Primary School. Participation is important for children because it gives them an opportunity to have a say about issues and decisions that affect them. Children are more likely to speak up about their concerns about feeling unsafe, or make a complaint, if they feel their views are valued and welcomed.

Benefits of empowering & supporting the participation of children:

- Participation and empowerment are vital components of a child safe school that benefits children, families and staff.
- Involving and consulting with children enables Berwick Chase PS to improve its policies, practices and services as children provide a unique voice regarding what makes them feel safe and unsafe.
- Facilitating the empowerment and participation of children enhances a culture of child safety and listening to children within Berwick Chase PS.
- Children and young people learn new skills, build self-esteem and develop an understanding of collaboration and rights.
- Children are more likely to report abuse or concerns if they feel safe and empowered in their school.
- Children feel their views are valued and listened to. Children are more likely to support the outcome if they have been involved.
- Increases engagement.
- Reduces absences.

To encourage the empowerment & participation of children at Berwick Chase PS, we aim to ensure all opportunities of participation and empowerment are:

- With the support and supervision of skilful, trustworthy adults.
- Welcoming
- Ethical
- Supportive
- Safe
- Encouraging
- Age appropriate and child friendly
- Culturally respectful
- Inclusive of a diverse range of children
- Demonstrate respect for children of all ages, abilities, social and cultural backgrounds
- Positive and fun
- With clear, honest and realistic expectations and boundaries

Some of the opportunities at Berwick Chase PS to support the empowerment and participation of children include:



- Implementation of the School Values
- Implementation of the Tell Them from Me student survey years 3-6.
- Student Attitude to School survey
- Weekly Principal's morning tea
- Extensive student leadership program
- Student Welfare Officer, Restorative Practice processes, Class meetings, Circle Time, Whole school rules, student engagement policy and processes
- Chasers student focus group
- Zones of Regulation
- Strategies for Teaching based on our staff string through Amaze
- Mindfulness
- Kids matter room
- Friendship chairs
- Family life program
- SSSO Psychologist, Social Worker, Speech Pathologist, Social Worker
- School employed Speech Pathologist, School Nurse
- ICT usage agreements, Cyber Safety, eSmart school
- School musical
- Assembly performances
- Harmony Day, Multicultural Day
- Swimming, Athletics Carnivals, Hoop Time, Interschool sports, Colour Run
- Incursions, Excursions, Camps (Year 3-6)
- Explore Garden.
- Year 6 Mad Day Stalls.

Evaluation:

This policy will be review as part of the school's annual cycle

This Policy was ratified as School Council September _____