



THE LAKES SOUTH MORANG COLLEGE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAM POLICY

Rationale:

- The period of adolescence that coincides with the Middle Years of schooling (Years 5-9) represents a critical phase of development in students' lives. For a significant number of students, this period of rapid emotional, physical and intellectual development often coincides with a lack of engagement at schools, underachievement and feelings of disenchantment with the education system. In order to address this issue, schools must reconsider their current position and work collaboratively to develop strategies which cater for the needs of all students undertaking the Middle Years of schooling.

Aims:

- To ensure our approach to schooling in the Middle Years maximises student engagement, achievement and enjoyment.

Implementation:

- Our school recognises the issues relating to underperformance and disengagement of some students during the Middle Years of schooling, and has provided realistic, rich and relevant teaching and learning programs to address the problem.
- It is further recognised that success in this project relies upon strong partnerships and professional relationships being developed with the Middle Years team, local primary schools and teachers within the Whittlesea Cluster.
- A joint strategic plan that comprises action areas responding to the Student Engagement and Inclusion guidance policies and processes, school improvement and teacher professionalism, will be developed in partnership with relevant local feeder primary schools.
- Data derived from the Attitudes to School Student surveys, MDI survey and school based teacher surveys will provide additional planning input and direction.
- Staff members involved in teaching students in the Middle Years are required to address all aspects of the Middle Years teaching and learning philosophy and the Student Engagement and Inclusion guidance policies and procedures.
- Program budgets will be allocated by School Council to the Middle Years projects and programs including funds for professional development as required.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's regular review cycle.

This policy has been endorsed by School Council on the 19/03/19

The Lakes South Morang College Child Safety Statement:

To thrive, children need a safe and supportive environment at school, at home and in the broader community; no exceptions. At The Lakes South Morang College, we believe meeting the physical and emotional needs of our students is paramount in laying the foundations for a fulfilling future. We pledge to provide an environment that has zero tolerance to child abuse and will strive to work in partnership with our parents and community members to keep our students safe every day, in every way.