

Student wellbeing

Student wellbeing is considered a cornerstone element of teaching Australian students. Schools and communities value strong relationships and prioritise connections between teachers and students as a foundation for academic success.

Wellbeing is the shared responsibility of students, educators, families, and their broader communities. However, early learning and school settings are often in a position to identify when children and young people are at risk of poor wellbeing, and to ensure action is taken by appropriate agents to address these needs. Various programs, tools and resources have been developed to help learners and their families, teachers, and school leaders work together to understand and foster learners' wellbeing. Alongside these efforts, school systems have intensified their efforts to support educator and school leader wellbeing.

In the Australian Curriculum, students develop personal and social capability as they learn to understand themselves and others, and manage their relationships, lives, work and learning more effectively. The [Australian Curriculum's General Capabilities, Personal and Social Capability strand](#) sets out skills in four areas: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and social management and relationship skills.

Student voice

As part of ensuring student wellbeing, Australian schools encourage student and parent voice, student leadership, and participation. Student voice acknowledges that students have unique perspectives on learning, teaching, and schooling and should have the opportunity to actively shape their own education. Student voice involves students actively participating in their schools, communities, and the education system, contributing to decision-making processes and collectively influencing outcomes by putting forward their views, concerns and ideas.



The Student Wellbeing Hub

The Student Wellbeing Hub is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and provides high quality, age-appropriate information and resources targeted specifically to educators, parents and students to support Australian schools to provide every student with the strongest foundation possible for them to reach their aspirations in learning and in life.

This [search tool](#) is designed to help you find the resources you need within the wellbeing area.

Working with parents and carers

Parents and carers also actively communicate aspirations and desires for their child's education, including their child's wellbeing, and expect teachers to be mindful of their child as an individual. This may or may not be parallel to the understanding of the dynamic between teachers, students and parents or carers in other countries.

Child safety requirements

In Australia, state and territory governments are responsible for statutory child protection. The relevant government departments within each state and territory support vulnerable children who have been, or are at risk of being, abused, neglected or otherwise harmed, or whose parents are unable to provide adequate care or protection.

Teachers will need to utilise strategies that support students' wellbeing and safety working within school and/or system, curriculum, and legislative requirements. In addition to this, all teachers in Australia are '[mandatory reporters](#)', meaning under law, they are required to report known or suspected cases of abuse and neglect. All employers will hold annual compulsory training on child safety and mandatory reporting, including the policies and procedures teachers must comply with as part of working with children.



Child safety state and territory legislation

Further details and information about mandatory reporting can be obtained from the relevant statutory child protection authority in each state or territory. Contact and other details for each state and territory office, and advice about how to undertake a mandatory report, can be found in the resource sheet: [Reporting Abuse and Neglect: State and Territory Departments Responsible for Protecting Children](#).

Reflection questions

Use these reflection questions as a checklist to ensure you know everything about student wellbeing and how to meet their needs:

- Who is available to support you with meeting the needs of all students in your classroom?
- How do you support students emotionally and socially within your classroom?
- Do you encourage student voice and allow opportunities within lessons for students to collaborate and discuss?
- Have you completed all required annual child safety modules and training?
- Who should you report to if you are concerned about one of your students' wellbeing or safety?
- Do you have any specific wellbeing concerns about individual students or cohorts?
- Who is available within your school to address student and parent or carer concerns?
- Does your school or system use a 'trauma-informed' practice or program?