NSW Department of Education

Yarrowitch Public School Behaviour Support and Management Plan

Overview

Yarrowitch Public School is committed to explicitly teaching and modelling positive behaviour and to supporting all students to be engaged with their learning.

Our goal is to inspire every child to participate positively in society. We focus on promoting excellence, opportunity and success for every student, every day. We value and strive to develop safe, respectful learners in a caring learning community.

Our principles of positive behaviour support, inclusive practice and social emotional learning underpin our daily practice. High expectations for student behaviour are established and maintained through effective role modelling, explicit teaching, and planned responses.

To achieve our vision, key programs prioritised and valued by the school community are:

- Zones of Regulation
- Smiling Minds: An evidence-based program designed to support social and emotional skills development in children and overall mental health.

Yarrowitch Public School rejects all forms of bullying behaviours, including cyberbullying by maintaining a commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning community that promotes student wellbeing. Staff are committed to establishing evidence-based approaches and strategies that promote a positive climate where bullying is less likely to occur.

All members of the school community are active participants in building a welcoming school culture that values diversity and fosters positive relationships. A key component of a supportive school culture is building respectful relationships and an ethos that bullying is not accepted, in both online and offline environments. School staff actively respond to student bullying behaviour.

Partnership with parents and carers

Yarrowitch Public School partners with parents and carers in establishing expectations for engagement in developing and implementing student behaviour management and bullying strategies by:

- inviting parent and carer and student feedback through formal and informal means such as school surveys, and consulting with the wider community and local AECG.

Yarrowitch Public School will communicate these expectations to parents and carers through the school newsletter and meetings. Our school proactively builds collaborative relationships with families and communities to create a shared understanding of how to support our students' learning, safety and wellbeing.

School-wide expectations and rules

Yarrowitch Public School has the following school wide rules and expectations to develop safe and respectful learners.

Respectful	Safe	Learner
Listen to and follow instructions	Hands and feet to yourself Listening to teachers	Ask for help
Use appropriate language	Right place and the right time	Self-controlled
Share with each other	Taking turns	Be ready to learn
Care for our equipment and surroundings.	Use equipment correctly and collaboratively	Work together

Behaviour Code for Students

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

Yarrowitch Public School takes strong action in responding to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high-quality teaching and learning. See the Behaviour Code for Students for more details.

Whole school approach across the care continuum

Our school embeds student wellbeing and positive behaviour approaches and strategies in practices across the care continuum to promote positive behaviour and respond to behaviours of concern, including bullying and cyberbullying behaviour.

These approaches and strategies are built on a foundation of evidence-based effective classroom practices that set the tone for engagement with learning and respectful relationships. These practices include:

- stating and explicitly teaching classroom expectations
- establishing predictable routines and procedures that are communicated clearly to students
- encouraging expected behaviour with positive feedback and reinforcement
- discouraging inappropriate behaviour
- providing active supervision of students
- maximising opportunities for active engagement with learning
- providing carefully sequenced engaging lessons that provide options for student choice
- differentiating learning content and tasks to meet the needs of all students.

Care Continuum	Strategy or Program	Details	Audience
Prevention	Daily crunch and sip	School based session that provides access to free healthy vegetables and	Staff. Students K-6

Care Continuum	Strategy or Program	Details	Audience
Prevention	National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence (NDA)	fruit and builds strong student-teacher connections. Our school participates in the annual National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA) - in August each year.	Staff and students
Prevention/ Early intervention	Smiling Minds	The Smiling Minds program has a strong emphasis on supporting social and emotional skill development, and overall mental health.	Students K-6
	Zones of Regulation	Students learn to regulate their feelings to meet their learning goals and task demands, as well as support their overall well-being.	Students K-6
	Calm Corner	A safe, quiet space with sensory objects and deep breathing posters to help calm and support students.	Students K-6
Prevention/Early intervention/Targeted Indiviual	Australian eSafety Commissioner Toolkit for Schools to prevent and respond to cyberbullying	The toolkit supports our school to prepare, engage and educate the school community about creating and maintaining safe online environments to prevent cyberbullying incidents.	All students, individual students K - 6, families, staff
Individual intervention	School learning and support	Provides support for students who need personalised learning and support.	Principal, individual students K - 6, families

Planned responses to positive appropriate behaviour, inappropriate behaviour and behaviours of concern, including bullying and cyber-bullying

Identifying behaviour of concern, including bullying and cyberbullying

A behaviour of concern is challenging, complex or unsafe behaviour that requires more persistent and intensive interventions. A behaviour of concern does not include low-level inappropriate or developmentally appropriate behaviour. Bullying behaviour involves the intentional misuse of power in a relationship, is ongoing and repeated and involves behaviour that can cause harm.

Yarrowitch Public School staff will identify inappropriate behaviour and behaviours of concern, including bullying and cyber-bullying through a range of channels, for example:

- directly observing a child or young person's behaviours, interactions, verbal communications, or work produced (such as written materials, performances or artworks)
- a person disclosing information that is not previously known, either because it is new information or because it has been kept a secret
- concerns raised by a parent, community member or agency.

Students or parents can report bullying to any staff member. NSW public school principals have the authority to take disciplinary action to address student behaviours that occur outside of school hours or school grounds, including cyberbullying. Students who have been bullied will be offered appropriate support through the school counselling service.

Responses to all behaviours of concern apply to student behaviour that occurs:

- at school
- on the way to and from school
- on school-endorsed activities that are off-site
- outside school hours and off school premises where there is a clear and close connection between the school and students' conduct
- when using social media, mobile devices and/or other technology involving another student or staff member.

Preventing and responding to behaviours of concern

Yarrowitch Public School uses the following strategies to recognise and reinforce positive student behaviour and behavioural expectations:

The use of verbal and non-verbal specific positive feedback is the most powerful way to:

- help adults and learners to focus on positive social behaviour
- increase the likelihood that students will use the expected behaviours and skills in the future
- decrease unexpected behaviour and reduce the need for corrective responses
- enhance self-esteem and build an internal focus of control.

Specific positive feedback may not be sufficiently reinforcing for some students, so the school-wide continuum provides the opportunity to pair verbal or non-verbal feedback with a positive, tangible consequence.

The school-wide continuum for acknowledging expected behaviour includes:

- free and frequent – for everyday use by all staff in all settings
- moderate and intermittent – awarded occasionally
- significant and infrequent –semester or annual types of recognition.

Prevention	Early Intervention	Targeted/Individualised
Responses to recognise and reinforce positive, inclusive and safe behaviour	Responses to minor inappropriate behaviour.	Responses to behaviours of concern.

1. Behaviour expectations are taught and referred to regularly. Staff model behaviours and provide opportunities for practice. Students are acknowledged for meeting school-wide expectations and rules.	1. Refer to school-wide expectations and/or emotional regulation visuals and/or supports so that the student can self-regulate.	1. Seek help from principal or other staff member if there is a risk to safety. Otherwise notify principal ASAP.
2. Verbal and non-verbal specific positive feedback is paired with a positive, tangible reinforcer in a school-wide continuum for acknowledging expected behaviour.	2. Use indirect responses including proximity, signals, non-verbal cues, ignore, attend, praise, redirect with specific corrective feedback	2. Principal to take immediate steps to restore safety and return the situation to calm by using appropriate strategies such as: redirecting to another area or activity, providing reassurance or offering choices. Incident review and planning is scheduled for a later time determined by the context and nature of the incident.
3. Tangible reinforcers include those that are: • free and frequent • moderate and intermittent • significant and infrequent Intermittent and infrequent reinforcers are recorded on the centralised recording system.	3. Use direct responses e.g. Rule reminder, re-teach, provide choice, scripted interventions, student conference. Students have an opportunity to meet the classroom/playground behaviour expectation before a low-level consequence is applied.	3. Principal collects information and review the incident from multiple perspectives and determine next steps. Principal records the incident on the centralised recording system and contact parent/carer by email, phone or in person. Principal may consider further action eg: formal caution/suspension.
4. All social-emotional learning programs are taught fortnightly.	4. Teacher records on the centralised recording system by the end of the school day. Monitor and inform family if repeated.	4. Consider current and previous behaviour data. Other actions may include developing a behaviour support/response plan and/or completing a risk assessment.
Teacher/parent contact	Teacher/parent contact	Teacher/parent contact
Teacher contact through phone calls home is used to communicate student effort to meet expectations.	Teacher contacts parents by phone or email when a range of corrective responses have not been successful. In some cases, individual planning and referral to outside agencies may be discussed.	Principal contacts parent/carer to discuss any support and behaviour responses, including referral to outside agencies or Team Around a School.

Responses to serious behaviours of concern

Responses, including students who display serious behaviours of concern, are recorded in the centralised recording system. These may include:

- review and document incident
- determine appropriate response/s, including supports for staff or other students impacted

- develop or review individual student support planning, including teaching positive replacement behaviour and making learning and environmental adjustments
- reflection and restorative practices (listed below)
- liaise with Team Around a School for additional support or advice
- communication and collaboration with parents/carers (phone, email, meeting)
- formal caution to suspend, suspension or expulsion.

- The NSW Department of Education Student Behaviour policy and Suspension and Expulsion procedures apply to all NSW public schools.

Reporting and recording behaviours of concern

Staff will comply with reporting and responding processes outlined in the:

- Incident Notification and Response Policy
- Incident Notification and Response Procedures
- Student Behaviour policy and Suspension and Expulsion procedures.
- If a behaviour of concern is also a child protection matter use the Mandatory Reporting Guideline Tool.

Students and/or parents/carers can report cyberbullying to the eSafety Commissioner and reporting links for most sites, games and apps can be found at the eSafety Guide.

Reflection practices

Toilet and food breaks are always included when withdrawal from free choice play at either break is planned as a response to behaviour.

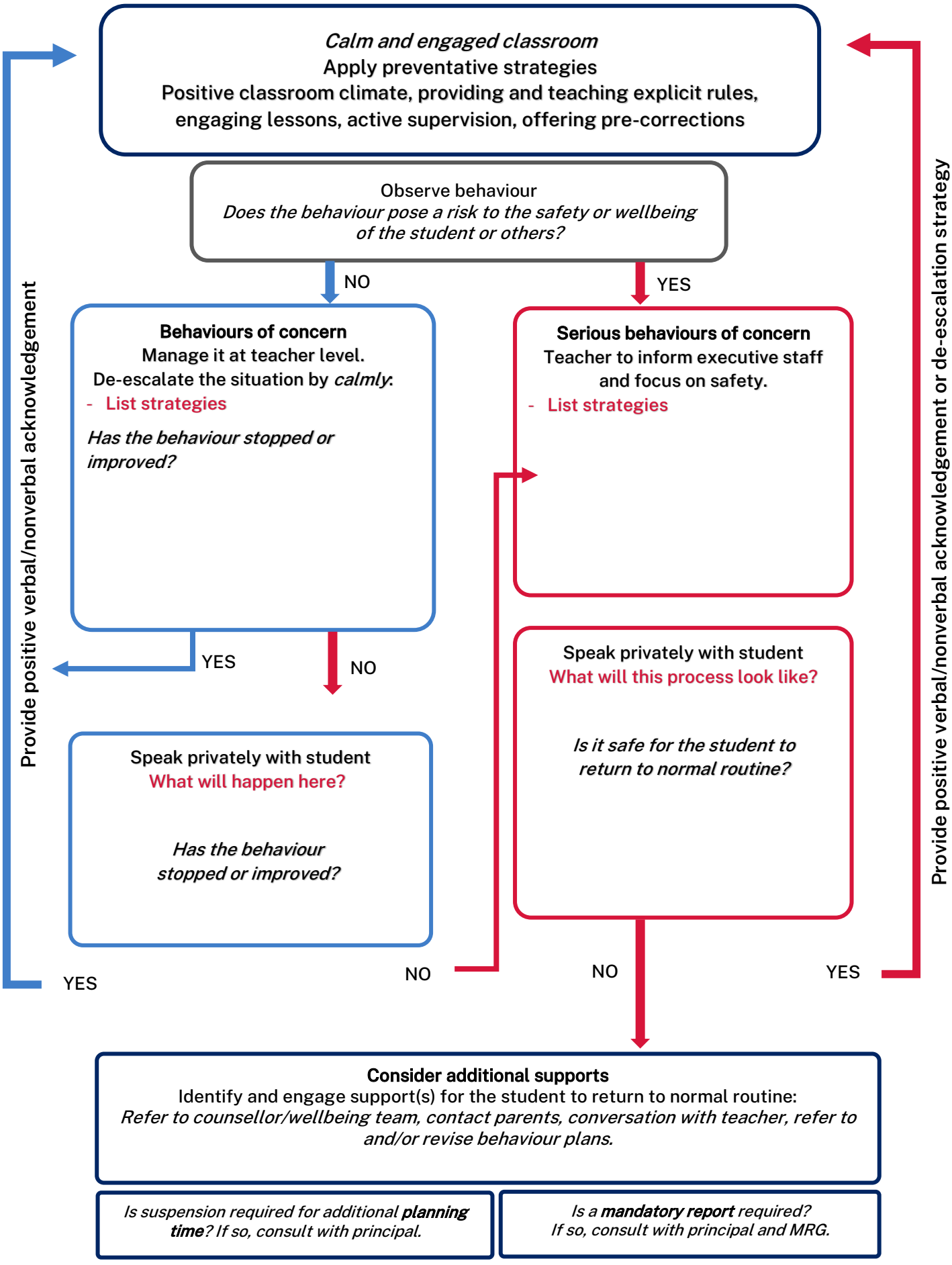
Action	When and how long?	Who coordinates?	How are these recorded?
Reflection conversation (problem-solving) – What happened, what did you do, and what could you do instead next time.	Class time and break times as required	Teacher/ principal	Documented in school record system

Review dates

Last review date: 31 January Term 1, 2025

Next review date: 20 December Term 4, 2025

Appendix 1: Behaviour management flowchart



Appendix 2: Bullying Response Flowchart

First hour: Listen
- Identify bullying behaviour, including cyber-bullying
- Provide a safe, quiet space to talk and reassure the student that you will listen to them
- Let them share their experience and feelings without interruption
- As a mandatory reporter, if you hold immediate concerns for the student's safety, let the student know how you will address these. Immediate in this circumstance is where the staff member believes the student is likely to experience harm (from others or self) within the next 24 hours.

Day 1: Document
- Ask the student for examples they have of the alleged bullying (e.g. hand written notes or screenshots)
- Write a record of your communication with the student and check with the student to ensure you have the facts correct (School Bytes)
- If required refer to behaviour management flowchart
- Notify parent/s that the issue of concern is being investigated

Day 2: Collect
- Gather additional information from other students, staff or family
- Review any previous reports or records for students involved
- Make sure you can answer who, what, where, when and how
- Clarify information with student and check on their wellbeing

Day 3: Discuss
- Evaluate the information to determine if it meets the definition of bullying (see above)
- Make a time to meet with the student to discuss next steps
- Ask the student what they believe will help address the situation
- Engage the student as part of the solution
- Provide the student and parent with information about student support network
- Agree to a plan of action and timeline for the student, parent and yourself

Day 4: Implement
- Document the plan of action in School Bytes
- Complete all actions agreed with student and parent within agreed timeframes
- Monitor student and check in regularly on their wellbeing
- Seek assistance from student support network if needed

Day 5: Review
- Meet with the student to review situation
- Discuss what has changed, improved or worsened
- Explore other options for strengthening student wellbeing or safety
- Report back to parent
- Record outcomes in School Bytes

Ongoing follow-up
- Continue to check in with student on regular basis until concerns have been mitigated
- Record notes of follow-up meetings in School Bytes
- Look for opportunities to improve school wellbeing for all students