



## **SORRENTO PRIMARY SCHOOL BUDDY PROGRAM POLICY**

**Ratified: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Review Date: December 2020**

### **PURPOSE:**

The Buddy Program at Sorrento Primary School provides the students, staff and community with a program that is designed to develop physical, social and emotional wellbeing. The program is implemented across the whole school and it supports a safe and happy environment. The Buddy Program is designed to provide support and build relationships between junior and senior students, peer to peer, and student and teacher. By applying the student-help-student principle, it empowers students to grow in confidence and responsibility.

### **AIMS:**

- To develop a strong sense of self
- To feel connected to school and peers
- To adjust easily to a new class, year level or the school
- To learn a way of relating positively to others
- To develop positive cross-age relationships
- To contribute to a friendly and caring school culture

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

- All students will participate in a Buddy Program

### **FOUNDATION AND YEAR SIX BETTER BUDDIES PROGRAM**

- Foundation students will have a Year Six student as their buddy in their first year of schooling.
- Year Five students will participate in Better Buddies training in Year Five in preparation for becoming a Better Buddy in Year Six.
- Foundation students and their family will meet their Better Buddy during transition.
- Foundation students will receive a Better Buddies Bear from their Year Six Buddy during Term One.
- Foundations students and their Better Buddies will participate in a range of cross age activities throughout the year.

### **YEAR ONE WITH YEAR TWO and YEAR THREE WITH YEAR FOUR BUDDIES**

- Students entering Year One and Year Three will be buddied with a peer in their section of the school to help them adjust to their new year level.
- Students will participate in a range of activities that:
  - promote inclusion, empathy, and positive role models and that
  - build self-confidence, develop social skills and cross age relationships.

### **YEAR FIVE/TEACHER MENTOR PROGRAM**

- Students in Year Five will be buddied with a mentor teacher who has volunteered to be part of this program. This program provides Year Five students with the opportunity to develop a positive relationship with a teacher beyond their classroom teacher and strengthen their connectedness to school.
- Year Five students and their mentor teacher will meet twice per term. The students and their mentor teacher determine meeting times and or activities.

### **YEAR FIVE BUDDIES FOR NEW STUDENTS**

- New students entering the school will be buddied with a peer in their class and also a Year Five student who will assist them with orientation into the school and providing assistance during recess and lunch breaks.
- New students and their buddies will participate in a Welcome to School Lunch.

### **RESOURCES/PROGRAMS:**

- **Better Buddies Manual**
- **Bounce Back**
- **Circle Time**
- **Respectful Relationships**
- **Lunchtime programs (Chaplaincy, Yoga, Chess Club, Gardening Club etc)**
- **Peacemakers – support students to find their buddy/friend, to participate in a game and to resolve minor issues**
- **Foundation and Year One sport program during Term 4**
- **Welcome to School Lunch**