BALLAM PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY

STUDENT WELFARE

**Rationale:**
- This school endeavours to promote a healthy, supportive and secure environment for all children and to raise awareness of what makes students resilient, to develop strategies to reduce vulnerabilities and increase coping skills.

**Aims:**
- The school is a positive environment in which all teachers assume responsibility for student welfare, endeavouring to provide successful experiences for all children, where children feel safe and secure in a supportive environment where a sense of belonging and well-being are strengthened.
- Children develop positive social behaviours and problem solving skills.
- Staff are confident, skilled and proactive in the management of student welfare issues.
- Communication processes and protocols are clear and well known to ensure the effectiveness of student welfare support.

**Implementation:**
- Student Welfare is a shared responsibility between school, home and the community.
- The school will appoint a staff member who will coordinate student welfare across the school.
- The school will implement welfare support structures and programs which prioritise and address the identified needs of individual students or the school as a whole and that help implement the aims of the policy. Refer to: Framework for Student Support Services 1999.
- The school will endeavour to implement and maintain programs such as:
  - Seasons Program
  - Pacific Room
  - Buddies
  - Student Awards
  - Drug Education
  - Programs across the school to develop resilience, social skills, conflict resolution and problem solving eg. ‘You Can Do It’.
  - Transition programs.
- The school will provide the following support structures:
  - Monitoring of, and responding to, protracted student absences
  - Trauma Management plan
  - Protocol for Mandatory Reporting
  - Student Support Group’s for children in need
  - Bullying Survey of students and school environment.
- The school will also access outside services to provide support for students and staff which include:
  - Psychologist for psychological and academic assessment
  - Mentors – providing support for ‘at risk’ children
  - Social Workers to provide services such as counselling, social skills and anger management programs.
  - Local parent support groups
  - Relevant DEET support staff
  - C.A.S.A. [Centre Against Sexual Assault]
  - School Nurse
• The school will endeavour to cater for children identified with specific welfare issues by creating support groups, developing appropriate individual programs including goals, monitoring performance and behaviour, and providing ongoing support.

Evaluation:
• This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle.

Staff responsible for policy review/development: Jan McDornan
This policy has been ratified by School Council.