



Wellbeing for learning and life

Harristown State High School commitment to learning and wellbeing

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A positive school ethos and rich learning environment that is open, respectful, caring and safe optimises learning through a commitment to wellbeing.

Harristown State High School does this by:

- fostering the vision, “engage, achieve, excel – an agenda of excellence”.
- promoting the school values, Participation, Relationships, Integrity, Diligence, and Enthusiasm. As a place of learning, PRIDE underpins all that we do.
- inducting Junior Secondary students via a comprehensive InterYear program comprising orientation, learning of our history and the “Harristown way”.
- acknowledging and catering for a rich diversity of cultures, and a broad range of student needs. A variety of curricular learning experiences, extracurricular, vocational, sporting, cultural, arts, and extensive support services form the basis of meeting those needs.
- dividing the school into four house groups, each house with a Deputy Principal, House Pastoral Year Coordinator, and three Student Managers. This optimises a commitment to each student’s wellbeing. Complementing the four house groups are house form classes whereby Year 8 students and Year 12 students are in single year level groups, with the students in Years 9-11 grouped vertically.
- Rewarding students’ effort and behaviour in a number of ways, including Gold and Silver Certificates of Commendation and again at Presentation Night in the way of Encouragement Awards. Full school assembly is held on a weekly basis, with a focus on student effort, behaviour and achievement.
- Providing staff with professional development opportunities with links to the physical, emotional, social, cognitive and civic development of students.

CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY

Curriculum that enhances wellbeing equips students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and strategies to understand and manage themselves and their relationships.

Pedagogy that enhances wellbeing builds positive relationships.

Harristown State High School does this by:

- providing students with a Pastoral Care Program (Healthy Hawks) that has a clear focus in emotional health and wellbeing.
- embedding Dimensions of Learning throughout the school. This comprehensive research-based framework of cognition and learning, involves a complex system of interactive processes that include five types of thinking.
- communicating through the Habits of Mind dimension of learning, serving as a common language in all curricular, pastoral care and extracurricular learning environments.
- valuing relationships and integrity. Students are taught the skills and strategies that lead to healthy interactions; listening with empathy and understanding; having respect for others; being reliable and honest; taking responsible risks and managing their impulsivity.





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POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy intentions are transformed into action by school staff, students and the wider community.

Harristown State High School does this by:

- establishing a system that promotes strong student relationships. This is fostered in many ways including form classes, Student Representative Council, Gold, Silver and Bronze student leaders, and Houses activities and events.
- establishing a strong link with the University of Southern Queensland through the School Partners' Programme. The benefits of this partnership include scholarships, professional development opportunities for staff, access to funding, awards, and greater opportunities for students.
- Accelerated Academic Academy and Accelerated Industrial Skills Academy
- inviting many past students and staff to the annual Presentation Night evening.
- utilising past students through coaching, mentoring and teaching in sporting, arts and technology fields.
- communicating with parents through wide range of forums. Hawk Talk, Hawk Chat, Open days, Parents' and Citizens' Association, and course information evenings. Our school website is continually refreshed to ensure currency and enhance its usability and accessibility for our local, national and international families.
- encouraging teachers to regularly communicate with parents through phone calls, text messages and email to give student feedback regarding learning and behavioural matters.
- Southern Vale Cluster – feeder primary schools.
- providing students with access to our Vocational Education Department. Industry and Registered Training Organisation links to the school are an important factor in supporting students in their placements and training.
- maintaining a direct link to Downs Industry Schools Co-Op (DISCO), and utilising their programmes and levels of support for a variety of student needs.

PARTNERSHIPS

Productive partnerships expand the knowledge, skills and resources available in the school

Harristown State High School does this by:

- Providing a strategic forum to position the school and develop a strategic plan for future success. The School Revitalisation Group have the primary objective to consultatively progress the identified, agreed key priorities of our school.
- Forming Strategic Programme Areas (SPA) whereby staff on those groups review, evaluate and facilitate change to many school operational matters relevant to student learning and wellbeing.
- Approach to learning and wellbeing
- Directing professional development programmes to support key policies and student learning and wellbeing initiatives.

