

Best Practice Principles for Trauma-Informed Schools

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These principles were derived from an analysis of 20 international school-relevant existing trauma informed programs, and revised in consultation with international experts. They are provided to assist schools to be trauma-informed.

Overarching Principles

A. Student focused



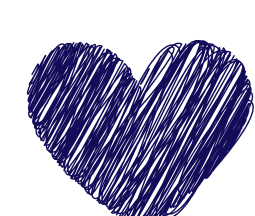
The School responds to the needs of children and young people first and foremost

B. Understanding and responsive



The School is culturally, socially and emotionally understanding and responsive

C. Models compassion and generosity



The School models and honours compassion, empathy, caring and generosity

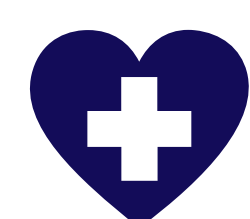
D. Ethos incorporates First Nation's peoples



The culture and experiences of the First Nation's peoples of the land on which the School resides are incorporated into the School's ethos

Practice Principles

1. Prioritises safety and wellbeing



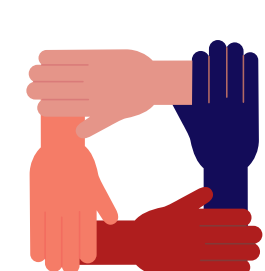
The School prioritises physical, social and emotional safety and wellbeing

2. Models positive relationships



The School values and models positive relationships, communication and interactions

3. Provides a positive culture and connects



The School provides a positive school culture that acknowledges and respects diversity, and builds connectedness

4. Consults and collaborates



The School works with families, community and services to identify and respond to trauma

5. Supports vulnerable students



The School identifies vulnerable children and young people early and provides individualised attention and support

6. Teaches social and emotional learning



The School teaches social and emotional learning to promote emotional intelligence and resilience

7. Provides trauma training



The School offers a range of learning opportunities to staff, students and the broader community about trauma and its impact

8. Is predictable yet flexible



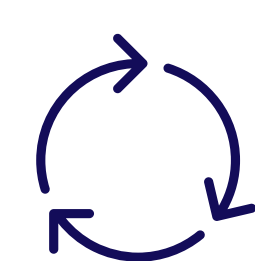
The School provides a structured and predictable environment that is flexible to individual children and young peoples' needs

9. Identifies and nurtures strengths



The School identifies and nurtures young peoples' strengths to ensure they feel valued and challenged

10. Reflects, changes and grows



The School reflects, changes and grows in response to the integration of trauma-informed practices

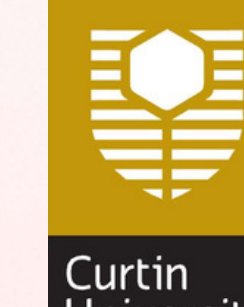


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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them, their cultures and to elders past, present and emerging. We extend this acknowledgement and respect to all Indigenous peoples worldwide.



Martin KE, et al 2020, International Trauma-Informed Practice Principles for Schools, Perth, Western Australia.
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