
Overseas Student Pastoral Support Services Policy

Alphington Grammar School is governed by the regulations and guidelines of The Education Services for Overseas Students Act (2000) (The 'ESOS Act') and the National Code 2018. Standard 6 of the National Code 2018 requires that the School supports Overseas Students in adjusting to study and life in Australia by providing the Overseas Student information on or access to an age and culturally appropriate orientation program. The School maintains evidence of compliance with this policy by maintaining records of our orientation program, records of critical incidents and records of designated student support personnel in accordance with this policy. Records will be maintained in accordance with our Overseas Students Records Management and Retention Policy.

1. Policy Statement:

- 1.1. Alphington Grammar School's Policy is to provide all information stipulated by Standard 6 of the *National Code 2018* in our Overseas Student Orientation Program.

2. Procedure:

- 2.1. Overseas Students are entitled to receive access to the following information:
 - support services available to assist Overseas Students and to help them adjust to study and life in Australia;
 - English language and study assistance programs;
 - any relevant legal services;
 - emergency and health services;
 - the School's facilities and resources;
 - complaints and appeals processes as outlined in Standard 10 of the *National Code 2018* (Complaints and Appeals);
 - requirements for course attendance and progress, as appropriate;
 - the support services available to assist students with general or personal circumstances that are adversely affecting their education in Australia;
 - services through which students can access information on their employment rights and conditions, and how to resolve workplace issues, such as through the Fair Work Ombudsman; and
 - provide access to the Department of Home Affairs information on Life in Australia. This is done both through our website and in our Letter of Offer.
- 2.2. Standard 6.2 of the *National Code 2018* requires the School, upon request of the student, to provide relevant information or appropriate referrals to Overseas Students requesting assistance in relation to the services/programs offered by the School as listed above, at no additional cost to the Overseas Student.
- 2.3. In the event that the school is unable to contact a student and has concerns for the student's welfare, the school will make all reasonable efforts to locate the student, including notifying the police and any other relevant Commonwealth, state or territory agencies as soon as practicable (as outlined under Standard 5.5).

3. Services:

- 3.1. The School recognises that Overseas Students may face pastoral and personal difficulties during their time in Melbourne and with Alphington Grammar School, adjusting to a new country and school. The School facilitates access to the following services:
 - Counselling for general or personal matters;
 - Nursing Services;
 - Health and Disability Services;
 - English and Academic Support Services;
 - Relevant Legal Services; and
 - Emergency and Health Services.

4. Responsibilities:

- 4.1. Alphington Grammar is required by Standard 6.5 to designate a member or members of staff to be the official point of contact for Overseas Students.
- 4.2. The School has an appointed Overseas Student Coordinator as the designated first point of contact for our Overseas Students.
- 4.3. Students are introduced to the Overseas Student Coordinator during their orientation and given their contact details, which provide a 24 hour line of communication.

5. Support Personnel:

- 5.1. Standard 6.6 of the *National Code 2018* requires the School to have sufficient student support personnel to meet the needs of all Overseas Students enrolled at the School.
- 5.2. The number and type of student support personnel at the School have been selected to ensure that Overseas Students are supported in adjusting to study and life in Australia and throughout their enrolment.
- 5.3. Overseas Students are supported by:
 - Overseas Student Coordinator;
 - Head of House;
 - Teaching Staff; and
 - Interpreters.

6. Training and review:

- 6.1. The School is required by Standard 6.7 of the *National Code 2018* to ensure that staff members who interact directly with Overseas Students are aware of the School's obligations under the ESOS frameworks and potential implications for Overseas Students arising from the exercise of these obligations.
- 6.2. The School provides annual training for all staff which outlines the School's obligations under the ESOS Framework.
- 6.3. All Staff have access to the Overseas Student Policy & Procedures Handbook (ISPPH) should they want to learn more about the School's obligations.
- 6.4. Where any changes/updates occur in regards to the School's policies or procedures with Overseas Students of Alphington Grammar School, staff will be informed as soon as practicable.
- 6.5. The School provides information about the ESOS framework in our Staff Handbook. This handbook is distributed to Staff at induction as an initial introduction to the day to day management of Overseas Students.
- 6.6. The School provides annual training to the Overseas Student Coordinator and their support staff on the following:
 - The Victorian Child Safe Standards and how they apply to Overseas Students;
 - The School's policies and procedures for managing emergency situations and critical incidents;
 - Policies and procedures for verifying that the Student's accommodation is appropriate to the Student's age and needs; and
 - The ESOS Act, The National Code (2018) and any VRQA Guidelines for the Enrolment of Overseas Students Aged Under 18 issued.

7. Record Keeping:

- 7.1. Alphington Grammar School implements a documented policy and process for managing critical incidents that could affect an Overseas Student's ability to undertake or complete a course, such as but not limited to incidents that may cause physical or psychological harm, in accordance with Standard 6.8 of the *National Code 2018*.
- 7.2. The School maintains a written record of all critical incidents and any remedial action taken by the School following a critical incident.
- 7.3. This record is kept for at least two years after the Student ceases to be enrolled.

8. Duty of Care:

- 8.1. The School adheres to the *Safe School Environments* requirements as stipulated by Standard 6.9 of the *National Code 2018*. In accordance with this, the School:
- takes all reasonable steps to provide a safe environment on campus and advise Overseas Students and Staff on actions they can take to enhance their personal security and safety;
 - provides information to Overseas Students about how to seek assistance for and report an incident that significantly impacts their wellbeing, including critical incidents;
 - provides Overseas Students with or refers them to (including electronically) general information on safety and awareness relevant to life in Australia; and
 - has developed and effectively implemented a Student Duty of Care Program and Child Protection Program that applies to all students enrolled at the School, including Overseas Students, to ensure the safety of all students.