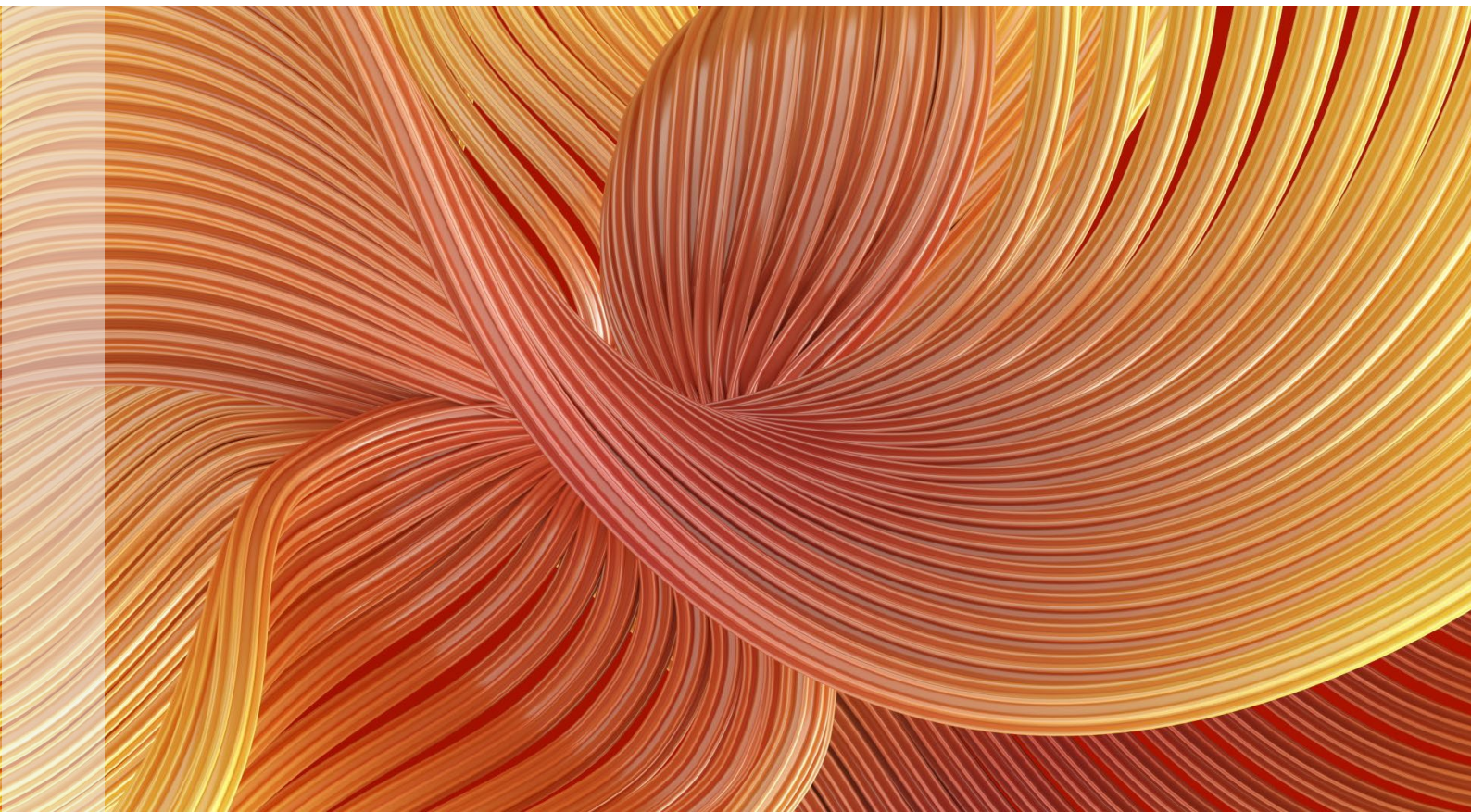




FAIRHILLS
HIGH SCHOOL
KNOX



Fairhills High School

2026

Year 9 Handbook

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Information in this subject selection handbook is correct as of 10/12/2025

OUR VISION

Empowering our community to be curious, creative and confident learners.

Everything we do is underpinned by our three core values:

- Act Responsibly
- Build Relationships
- Show Respect

INTRODUCTION

The Fairhills High School Year 9 Handbook has been developed to assist and inform all Year 9 students, parents/carers and staff. All the relevant policies, procedures and requirements specific to Year 9 are outlined within this handbook. Students and parents are asked to read and familiarise themselves with the contents of this handbook. The handbook and other essential information and forms are located on the Fairhills High School website <https://fairhillshs.vic.edu.au/>

At Fairhills High School, Year 9 is the beginning of students' senior journey. It is an extremely important year as it gives each student the ability to select subjects that are of interest to them and make supported decisions on Year 11 and 12 pathways. Year 9 is an opportunity for students to consolidate and build on skills and knowledge essential for a successful VCE or VCE VM program.

Students who have success in Year 9:

- Hard working in all areas of school life
- Attend school well over 95% of the time
- Set and review meaningful pathway goals
- Ask for help and use available supports
- Seek and respond positively to feedback
- Create strong and respectful relations with others
- Maintain a positive, healthy school and life balance

School Contacts

The partnership between a school and home is essential in supporting students throughout their educational journey. Throughout the year there will be many opportunities to become involved. The school aims to have ongoing contact with home, and we do this primarily through Compass.

Principal - Mr Ian Van Schie

Assistant Principal Middle School – Ms Silvana La Leggìa

Oversees all school matters in the Middle School (Years 7 and 9)

Pedagogy and Curriculum Leader – Dr Peter Morgan

Oversees Middle School teacher pedagogy and curriculum in years 7-10

Year 9 Team Leader – Ms Madison Brunton

The Team Leader at each year level should be the first contact for most matters relating to courses, student wellbeing, attendance and conduct. A Team Leaders first and foremost priority is to support all students to have a positive approach to all areas of schooling life.

Year 9 Connect

Year 9 Connect subject teachers are an important support for students and assist them with their learning and broader skill development.

Individual Subject Teachers

Subject teachers can be contacted directly about student progress.

Student Wellbeing/Inclusion Team

Offers counselling and support to students on a wide range of concerns.

To speak with any of these staff, contact the General Office on (03) 9758 5022.

2026 Term and Key Dates

Term 1: Wednesday 28 January – Thursday 2 April

- Wednesday 28 January

Year 7 – Welcome Program Day 1
Students: 9:00am - 2:40pm
Parents/Carers: 9:00am start, finish at 11:00am

Year 8-12 – Parent/Student/Teacher "Return to School Interviews"
- Thursday 29 January

Year 7 – Student Welcome Program – Day 2 (8:40am-2:40pm)
Year 11 & 12 – Classes Begin (8:40am-2:40pm)
- Friday 30 January

Year 8-10 & VCE VM – Classes Begin (8:40am-2:40pm)
Year 11 & 12 – continue (8:40am-2:40pm)
- Monday 9 March – Labour Day
- Friday 3 April – Easter Good Friday
- Monday 6 April - Easter Monday

Term 2: Monday 20 April – Friday 26 June

- Saturday 25 April – Anzac Day
- Monday 8 June – King's Birthday

Term 3: Monday 13 July – Friday 18 September

Term 4: Monday 5 October – Friday 18 December

- Tuesday 3 November – Melbourne Cup Day
- 30 November – 4 December 2027 Headstart

Bell Times

Period	Times
Period 1	8:40am-9:40am
Period 2	9:40am-10:40am
Recess	10:40am-11:00am
Period 3	11:00am-12:00pm
Period 4	12:00pm-1:00pm
Lunch	1:00pm-1:40pm
Period 5	1:40pm-2:40pm

Compass

Compass is the student learning and management system used by Fairhills High School at <https://fairhillshs-vic.compass.education/>

It is the key communication system the school uses to provide information to students and families. Parents/Carers need to ensure they:

- are able to log in
- provide current email details
- log in at least once a week to check student timetable, notices, activities, attendance and assessment details
- follow up with the appropriate school contact if there are any concerns/issues
- refer to the school's IT Department for support with Compass technical issues or to check log in details
- use the Compass system to provide consent and pay for events and school fees

Materials and Laptop Devices

The required learning materials are on the booklist (see link below) and it is essential that students take their textbooks and materials to every class as required.

Booklists: www.lilydalebooks.com.au/schools/fairhills-high-school

Students are also to bring their laptops to each class. Schools do not provide laptops. Students must make sure their laptops are fully charged and in good working order each day.

Laptops: <https://fairhillshs.vic.edu.au/learning/digital-learning/>

Uniform

The wearing of the school uniform is compulsory for all students and students are required to comply with the Fairhills High School [Uniform Dress Code](#).

Students are required to wear their uniform neatly, respectably and correctly at all times including to and from the school and on all school excursions. The Fairhills High School [uniform infringement process](#) will apply to students who are out of uniform.

Leadership Opportunities

Students will be provided with a range of leadership opportunities, including roles as School Council Representatives, Year Level and House Leaders, where they help organise and support key school events and initiatives.

CURRICULUM

Year 9

In Year 9, the core curriculum program of Years 7 and 8 shifts to a core and elective program. In addition to compulsory core subjects, students can choose specialisms from a broad range of subjects, including Technologies and The Arts. Students also take part in the Year 9 – Connect program building on the 21st Century skills developed in the Year 7 and 8 Thrive program. Students collaborate in teams to evolve connect projects centred around community and societal issues with a heavy emphasis on hands-on learning.

Change of Subjects

A change of subject should not be taken lightly, remembering the requirements of completing Year 9 successfully and moving into Year 10. Students must speak to their Year 9 Team Leader about plans to change electives. The student will be required to complete the change of subject form which must be signed by:

1. The student
2. Year 9 Team Leader
3. Parent/carer

No subject changes can be made unless the form is completed and signed by all the required people.

Homework

At Fairhills High School we strive for all students to be curious, creative and confident learners. To support our current homework policy, we have developed a term Homework Planner for Year 7 and Year 10 students. Homework is given in English, Humanities, Maths and Science.

A Homework Planner which outlines the topics that are being studied in class as well as the homework and the expected time for completion will be sent to all students and parents at the beginning of each term. See a partial example below:

	English		Maths		Humanities	
	In class	At Home	In class	At Home	In class	At Home
W1	Persuasive Language Analysis	20 mins of reading per week	Transformations	Education Perfect [EP] #1	Ancient Egypt	Diorama Research
W2	Advertising Techniques	Literary techniques		My Helper Book	Influences and Timeline	
W3	Analysing texts using annotation	20 mins of reading per week	CAT 3	EP #2	Women and Hierarchy	Diorama Fact Sheet
W4	Conventions of news articles	Practice Annotation Tasks	Statistics	EP #3		

The details of the homework task will be shown on Compass and will include the date it is due. Students will be given **at least three school days** to complete a task.

Homework tasks will be:

- Purposeful and curriculum aligned
- Appropriate to students' skill level
- Designed to help students develop as independent learners
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning

We have developed a supportive process to assist students to become more empowered in their learning.

If students are finding it difficult to complete homework tasks, the following supports will be in place:

- Communication with parents/carers
- After school homework club
- Development of a Homework Support Plan
- Development of a Homework Strategy Plan with parents/carers

Parents and carers can support students to create positive homework and study habits by monitoring and supporting students to take steps such as:

- Removing all distractions eg. mobile phones/TVs
- Studying in chunks of 20 minutes
- Use of a study timetable/homework planner to organise

At Year 9 homework for English, Maths and Connect is equivalent to 70 minutes per week for each subject.

Assessment

Common Assessment Tasks (CATs) are specific tasks which assess a student's level of understanding and achievement for a particular topic/unit of work based on the requirements of each subject. All Year 9 subjects are aligned with the Victorian Curriculum and three or four CATs will form the basis of assessment for each subject. At the start of each unit teachers will provide students with a course outline which includes assessment dates and conditions for each task. CAT dates and results will be recorded on Compass within the subject's learning tasks.

To achieve a Satisfactory standard for each CAT the student must:

- Produce work that meets the required standard
- Submit work on time
- Submit work that is clearly the student's own work
- Meets the Fairhills High School attendance requirements

A student may **not** receive a Satisfactory completion for a CAT if:

- Work is not of the required standard
- The student has failed to meet a school deadline for the assessment task, including where an extension of time has been granted for any reason, including special provision
- Work cannot be authenticated
- There has been a substantive breach of rules including school attendance requirements.

CAT Breaches

A “breach” is any infringement that gives a student an unfair or unreasonable advantage in terms of assessment. If there is an alleged breach of a CAT or Year 9 exam conditions a Year 9 panel will be created to investigate it. A Year 9 panel consists of:

- A member of the Principal Team
- Year 9 Team Leader
- Subject Teacher
- A parent may be involved (but not in an advocate role)

A Year 9 panel has the power to impose the following consequences:

- Award the CAT or exam a grade of insufficient evidence
- The student to re-sit the task or complete a redemption task to receive an Satisfactory grade
- If it is a second offence, (in any subject), the student will not meet the standard in that subject.

Breaches, (not an exhaustive list), which will result in disciplinary action are:

- Plagiarism
- Unauthorised use of technology
- Communicating with others
- Other breaches specified by the Senior School Assistant Principal

Absence from a CAT

Students may not miss a CAT assessment session (including an exam) without approval. Approved absences may be granted for:

- An illness explained by a medical certificate
- An official school excursion
- An official sporting event
- Exceptional personal circumstances. Approval for these is given at the discretion of a Year 9 Team Leader

If a student is absent for a CAT or exam they must:

1. Provide a medical certificate by handing it into the General Office within three working days of the assessment session
2. Complete the CAT/exam at a suitable time negotiated with the subject teacher

A student will receive an unsatisfactory grade for the CAT if the above conditions are not met.

Redemption Process

If work submitted by a student for the assessment of a CAT does not meet the required standard for satisfactory outcome, the teacher/s of the subject will select a consistent approach from the following options:

1. Course work confirmation - The student can demonstrate an understanding of the outcome through completion of specified classwork and homework.
2. Student teacher conference - A student can verbally explain knowledge of the area. The teacher will also ask questions related to the area.
3. Identical or equivalent CAT - A teacher may require a student to re-sit a CAT or complete a similar CAT. The re-sit will be completed in a prompt manner. The teacher must make time available to assist the student in preparing for the redemption of a CAT.

Students have a maximum of two weeks to redeem after being informed of their score on the original CAT. In exceptional circumstances an extension may be approved by the Senior School Assistant Principal.

Authentication

It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that there are no difficulties in authenticating their work. It is important that students keep drafts and preparatory work that leads into the completion of a CAT as required. Teachers must monitor and record each student's development of an Assessment Task, from planning to drafting, through to completion. The process of monitoring the development of a CAT requires the teacher to regularly sight the work and record the progression. The process of authentication will differ from subject to subject, and from task to task.

Year 9 Completion

Year 9 is viewed as an important link for students moving from the middle school into the senior school. We aim to provide students with a broad, flexible, and engaging curriculum that gives them an opportunity for choice in the development of their courses of study.

Year 9 students are expected to demonstrate satisfactory progress in their learning across the curriculum and in particular the key core subjects of English and Mathematics. In order to progress into Year 10 students, need to satisfactorily complete a suitable number of units (core and specialisms) over both semesters of Year 9, demonstrate positive learning habits, school values and meet the attendance requirements. Individual student learning progress throughout each semester will be reviewed and pathway planning may become necessary for a student potentially not being able to meet these requirements.

Reporting

The school strongly encourages parents/carers to access Compass at least once a week to monitor their student's progress. Compass provides results of assessment and learning tasks throughout the semester, as well as attendance data. If a parent/carer has any concerns they should contact the subject teacher or Year 9 Team Leader immediately.

Subject reports will be made available electronically via Compass for each student at the end of each semester.

Students are assessed in each subject against the Victorian Curriculum standards.

WELLBEING AND ENGAGEMENT PROCESSES

Behavioural Expectations

Students are expected to conform to the behavioural expectations set out in the Fairhills High School [Behavioural Matrix](#). Our school values of Acting responsibly, Building relationships and Showing respect (ABS) form the focus of expectations related to student behaviour, and all Year 7 and 8 students are expected to consistently demonstrate these values in their involvement with all members of the school community.

Fairhills High School is fully committed to the Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) framework, which brings together our school community to intentionally develop positive, safe and supportive learning environments. As an SWPBS school, we have established a clear **Positive Classroom Behaviour (PCB) Process** grounded in a consistent [4R model](#) – **Remind/Re-direct, Relocate/Recall, Remove and Restore**. This process provides staff with a shared, graduated approach to responding to classroom behaviour, supporting students to re-engage in learning, maintain safe and orderly classrooms, and restore relationships. Through the consistent application of the PCB 4R process, Fairhills ensures predictable routines, clear expectations and a strong focus on learning, wellbeing and positive relationships.

Non-Negotiables Red Card Removals

The following behaviours will result in **immediate removal, contact with home and other appropriate consequences**.

1. Bullying & harassment
2. Dangerous, aggressive and violent behaviour
3. Destruction of property
4. Repeated refusal to follow instructions
5. Swearing and/or obscene language towards a person

Mobile Devices

The Mobile Devices Policy clearly outlines the processes and expectations regarding student use of mobile devices at school. Mobile devices brought to school must be switched off and securely stored in student lockers for the entire school day, including recess and lunchtime.

Any mobile device seen in a student's possession during the school day will be confiscated. Further consequences, including suspension, may apply where a student refuses to comply or repeatedly fails to follow the Mobile Devices Policy.

When urgent contact is necessary, parents/carers are able to reach their child by calling the General Office any time during the school day.

Attendance/Absence

100% attendance is compulsory for all students (unless an exemption has been granted). Daily attendance is important for all students to succeed in education and to ensure they do not fall behind both socially and developmentally. Parents/carers must ensure that their child attends school at all times when the school is open for instruction.

For absences, parents/carers must provide an explanation on each occasion to the General Office or Via Compass. The Principal will determine if the explanation provided is a reasonable excuse under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic).

The school is required to record attendance in every class and must record, in writing, the reason given for each absence. This is necessary so that the school can meet legislative requirements, meet its duty of care to students and meet the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) requirements. Students whose attendance is unsatisfactory may find that they are ineligible to pass the subject.

Students who fall below 90% attendance may be required to attend an Attendance Strategy Meeting with their parents/carers, Team Leader and/or Assistant Principal.

For full details, please refer to the Attendance Policy listed on the website:

<https://fairhillshs.vic.edu.au/our-school/policies-and-documents/>

Punctuality

Punctuality is essential for a productive learning environment. Students are expected to arrive on time to every class, prepared with the required materials and a fully charged laptop. Students who arrive late to Period 1 will be marked late and must sign in at the Compass Kiosk in the General Office using their Student ID Card.

All late arrivals are recorded on the roll and visible to parents and carers on Compass, allowing them to monitor attendance and punctuality. Ongoing lateness is taken seriously and may be treated as an absence, which can impact a student's unapproved absence rate. Students with excessive lateness will be required to attend detentions and/or meet with their Team Leader and Assistant Principal as part of an attendance support plan.

Developing strong punctuality habits supports academic success and builds responsibility and respect for others' time.

Bullying Prevention

Fairhills High School is committed to providing a safe and respectful learning environment where bullying will not be tolerated. The School's aim is to empower all students to be an Upstander. Fairhills High School has a very clear response to allegations of bullying using the Fairhills High School [bullying response process](#). Students can report Anonymously via the Stymie app at www.stymie.com.au

APPENDICES – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Bullying Response Process

Fairhills High School Bullying Response Process

Bullying occurs when someone, or a group of people, deliberately and repeatedly upset, harass, intimidate, threaten or hurt another person or damage their property, reputation or social acceptance. It can be direct/indirect/physical/verbal and includes cyberbullying.

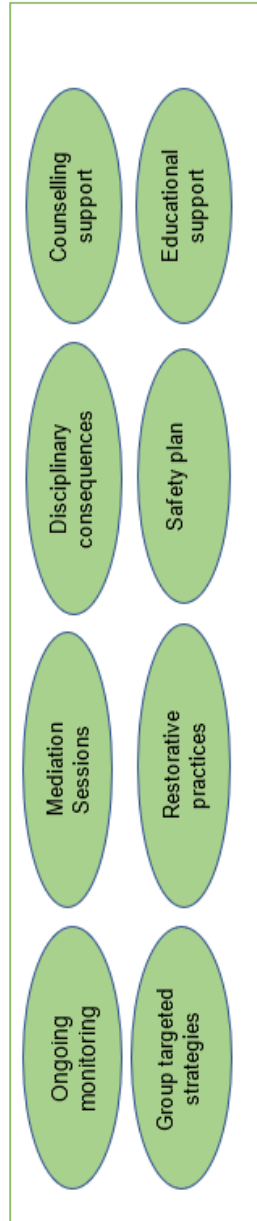
The Year Level Team Leader (YLTL) will investigate any potential bullying issue in a timely manner

The YLTL will speak to 1-3 and 4-5 if necessary:

1. [The alleged victim(s). Student(s) complete an incident report
2. Witnesses and obtain a witness statement
3. The alleged perpetrator(s), student(s) complete an incident report
4. Relevant staff members e.g. Assistant Principal- students
5. Relevant external stakeholders e.g. Parents

If bullying has occurred, the following factors need to be considered when determining a response (not an exhaustive list):

• Any element of provocation	• Impact on victims(s)	• Severity and frequency of the bullying
• Age and maturity of students	• Past behaviours	• Group or individual bullying



For further information please refer to the Bullying Prevention Policy on the school website

Documentation to be kept at all stages and transferred to Compass by the YLTL

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Uniform Infringement Process



Fairhills High School Uniform Infringement Process

1. First Infringement

- Students warned and reminded of student dress code
- Caution entered on Compass
- Parents informed via a Uniform Level 1 email/notification infringement notice

2. Second Infringement

- Student issued lunch-time detention
- Parents informed via a Uniform Level 2 email/notification infringement notice
- If a student does not attend the lunch-time detention it will be escalated automatically to the next Level

3. Third Infringement

- After school detention issued
- Parents informed via a Uniform Level 3 email/notification infringement notice
- If a student does not attend the after-school detention it will be escalated automatically to the next level

4. Fourth Infringement

- Sub- school Assistant Principal /Team leader (TL) to phone home to discuss uniform concerns
- Record on Compass as level 4 notification infringement notice

5. Fifth Infringement

- One day internal suspension issued by the Assistant Principal /TL – Learning provided by teachers
- Parents informed via a Uniform Level 5 email/notification infringement notice

6. Sixth Infringement

- A Parent meeting/conversation with the Principal

The appropriate presentation of a parent note to the Uniform duty teacher at the start of the day and the issue of a uniform pass will ensure that a student does not receive an infringement

The note should explain:

- The reason for the uniform issue
- When it will be fixed (no longer than five working days).
- If there is financial hardship the school can assist.
- Anything else deemed important

The note is for infringements like incorrect shoes, jackets and other like clothing. The student needs to show the communication to the uniform duty teacher at the beginning of the day, who will give the student an "out of uniform authorisation pass."

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Uniform Dress Code

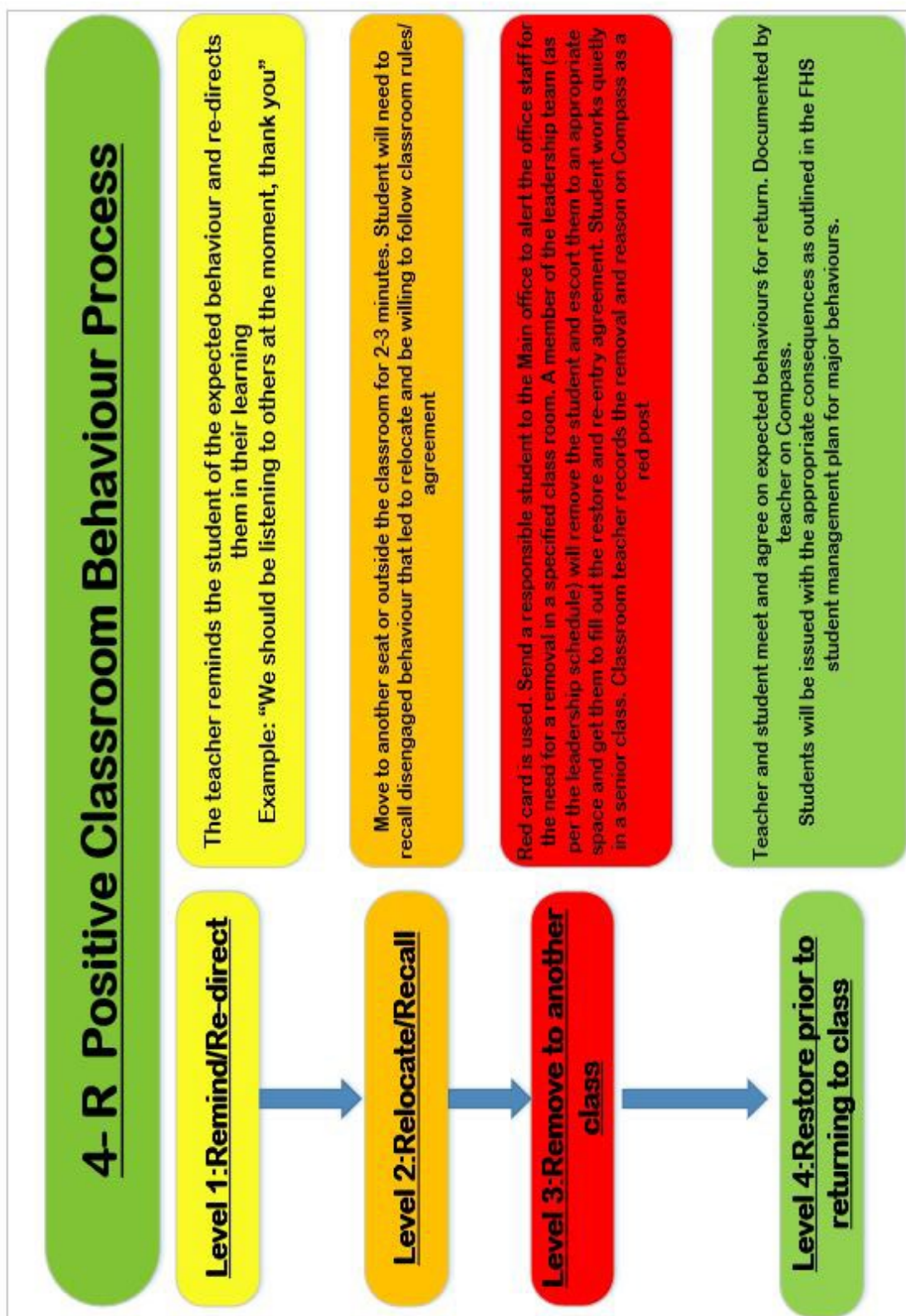
- Uniform daily wear options: **Version 1**, **Version 2**, or **Version 3**. Any of the versions can be worn each day.
- No alternative clothing is allowed.
- While it is not required to purchase each version, the PE Uniform must be worn for sports classes (Year 7-10). Your child may wear Version 3 every day if preferred.



to be accompanied with:



Positive Classroom Behaviour Model – 4- R Process



School Wide Positive Behaviour Matrix



Positive Behaviour Expectations

School Values We use our ABS	At all times	Learning Spaces and Classrooms	Toilets	Online and Digital	School Yard	Lockers	In the Community
Act Responsibly 	Move, work and interact safely Follow the rules and agreements of all spaces Use spaces and equipment for the intended purpose Be prepared and punctual Seek and give help	Bring correct equipment Be punctual Engage in learning activities Strive to do your best work Follow entry and exit routines	Let staff know of issues Use toilets for intended purpose Practise good hygiene Return to class promptly	Act within the law Follow the Digital User Agreement at all times Ensure your laptop is fully charged Think before you post Leave your mobile devices in your locker	Stay in designated areas Play games in designated areas Put rubbish in the correct bin	Keep the locker areas clean Ensure your locker is organised Keep your locker code private Place your timetable visibly in your locker	Wear your uniform correctly and proudly Follow all instructions Be an ambassador for the school
Build Relationships 	Be friendly and helpful Be inclusive of all Be kind to others Be an Upstander	Work together positively Be encouraging of all Look after each other Trust and support your teacher	Look out for others	Use for positive communication	Follow staff instructions Maintain personal space	Use a calm voice Speak with your Team Leader about any concerns	Be aware of your impact on others
Show Respect 	Use the appropriate language and tone Listen to and include others Share and use school resources correctly Give others space and allow them to learn Think carefully and communicate with kindness	Follow teacher instructions Look after your own and others' property Actively listen to others Raise your hand for questions and responses	Give others privacy Wait your turn Use the correct bins/dispensers	Use your laptop as instructed Take care of your laptop Think before you publish or respond	Use designated pathway and stairs Respect the yard and gardens Use outdoor furniture for sitting and eating	Take turns to access the locker space Only use your own lock and locker Be considerate of others	Be thankful and express your gratitude

Empowering our community to be curious, creative and confident learners.