



YOS Independent Schools
 YOS Lawnton and Riverview Campuses
 (A Queensland Non-State Independent School)

CONTINUOUS ENGAGEMENT POLICY		CODE: CONT2020
Scope of Application:	Students and staff	
Filing Instructions:	F Drive - F:\Programs\Independent Schools\Master School Folder\Current Policies and Procedures\Finalised Policies and Procedures	
Related policies:	YOS Independent Schools Enrolment Policy YOS Independent Schools Restorative Justice Framework YOS Independent Schools Positive Behaviour Policy YOS Independent Schools Attendance Policy	
Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Learning Plan 	

Change record / revision history:

Version	Prepared/ reviewed by	Date reviewed	Approved by	Authorised by	Review date
26.1	Helen Boardman	December 2018	Darren McGhee	Thomas Austin	December 2020
26.2	Helen Boardman	Amendments: 27/04/2020			December 2020
26.3	Helen Boardman	08/12/2020	Rish Lfterys	Rish Lfterys	December 2022
26.4	Helen Boardman	24/3/21	Shontell Dougherty	Rish Lfterys	December 2022

Purpose

To encourage students to continue engaging in education at YOS Independent School and to complete their education and transition on to further education, training or employment.

Policy

As a special assistance school, YOS Independent School has a desire to see students stay in education and have the same opportunities every student has. For a young person to experience a high quality of life it is dependent upon the establishment and encouragement of individual aspirations and a life of purpose. To further these ideals, access to and the delivery of quality educational, training and employment opportunities is required. For a student to maximize a high quality of life, they will require a supportive community, a positive learning environment, social, spiritual and emotional development and the maturity of moral and social justice values.



YOS Independent School considers it a service to the community and a privilege to work with the community, students and parents to provide education and social supports that will equip young people with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to have a life of quality and purpose.

Students who attend YOS Independent School have already disengaged from education previously and have multiple barriers to address, as well as completing their schooling. Their risk factors are accompanied by a set of risk behaviours, which can create learning barriers. YOS Independent School is committed to working with and walking alongside the student throughout their engagement to deliver an education program that is individual, trauma informed and restorative.

A student's engagement consists of three areas¹:

1. Emotional engagement – How emotionally connected to the school is the student? The notion of students' emotional engagement with school is closely related to their attitude towards school and their motivation in school
2. Cognitive engagement - Refers to students' psychological investment in learning and their use of learning strategies. Psychological investment entails a willingness to engage in learning activities and to enhance one's knowledge and skills
3. Behavioural engagement – How much the student participates in the classroom and school life

Many factors influence the student's engagement, including, teachers, school leaders, parents/carers, peers and other outside distractions, previous experiences and resources available.

¹ Sinan Gemici and Tham Lu. (2014) *Do schools influence student engagement in the high school years?*
Retrieved from: https://www.never.edu.au/_data/assets/file/0016/8026/schools-influence-2745.pdf

Responsibilities

School Staff

- Create a safe, secure, trusting and relational space
- Complete an Individual Learning Plan (Teachers and Youth Worker involvement)
- Recognise each students individuality and passions
- Facilitate positive engagement strategies
- Encourage emotional, cognitive and behavioural engagement
- Implement Transition Plans when required

Student

- To participate in the education program
- Discuss with the teacher or Executive Teacher Student Learning any concerns/difficulties
- Have a go

Implementation

“Stronger engagement levels with school have been linked to higher academic achievement, improved rates of attendance, school completion, and better job status later in life”². While attending YOS Independent School, there is a strong focus on the wellbeing of the student through the curriculum, which will have an impact on continuous engagement. YOS Independent School encourages the students:

- Self-worth and self confidence
- Individuality
- Passions
- Coping strategies
- To maintain/create healthy relationships
- Participation and engagement
- To pursue a healthy lifestyle which lead to improved health outcomes
- Broadening their knowledge



YOS Independent School will work with each student and develop an [Individual Learning Plan](#), to recognise what the student’s strengths, weaknesses, likes and dislikes are, and to put an education plan together. This ILP, in conjunction with the enrolment process will assist with understanding the student and their emotional, cognitive and behavioral engagement levels from past experiences and what may assist them in their continuous engagement. In addition, flexible learning arrangements may be offered, depending on the student’s situation.

YOS Independent School’s practice is based on Restorative Justice and Trauma Informed Care. YOS Independent School focuses strongly on developing a trusting relationship and creating a safe and secure space for the students to attend. This is further outlined in the [Restorative Justice Framework](#) and [Positive Behaviour Policy](#).

² Sinan Gemici and Tham Lu. (2014) *Do schools influence student engagement in the high school years?*
Retrieved from file: <https://www.ncver.edu.au/data/assets/file/0016/8026/schools-influence-2745.pdf>

Compliance and Monitoring

Staff will be made familiar with this policy on orientation and through staff meetings when the policy is reviewed every two years. This policy will also be readily accessible on F/drive, on the website and on request.

YOS Independent School will ensure that documentation is maintained and Individual Learning Plans are completed and understood by the student. Information related to student engagement may be documented on SAMIS as appropriate. Hard copy documentation will be filed securely in the student file in the school offices and scanned electronic copies saved in the student's file in the student record area.

YOS Independent School will report on engagement statistics and how the school encourages continuous engagement to the community through TSA management reports and via the Annual General Report.