Q: What are the Student Engagement Policy Guidelines and why are they being introduced?

A: The new *Effective Schools are Engaging Schools: Student Engagement Policy Guidelines* will replace two existing guidelines which outline attendance and behaviour standards at school. The new guidelines have been developed to promote positive school cultures and increase student wellbeing and learning. The guidelines emphasise preventing and early involvement to stop negative behaviour.

All Victorian government schools are required to develop a Student Engagement Policy. The Student Engagement Policy will be implemented beginning of the 2010 school year, although schools will begin to develop their policy in 2009 and you can expect to be consulted on the policy in 2009.

Q: Were students consulted during the development of these guidelines?

A: Students, as well as teachers, Principals, parents and welfare staff at a number of Victorian government primary, secondary and special schools provided valuable input in the development of the guidelines.

Q: What will the Student Engagement Policy look like?

A: A school's Student Engagement Policy should be made up of 5 components:
- School profile statement
- Whole school prevention statement
- Rights and responsibilities
- Shared expectations
- School actions/consequences

Each of these sections will be developed by the whole school community, including you as a student.

Q: Why do schools need to have a Student Engagement Policy in place?

A: The rules your school is following have been in place for 15 years and so it was decided that a review of these rules was a good idea.

The Student Engagement Policy will support the rights, and outline the expectations, of every member of the school community.

Q: How can I become involved in developing my school's Student Engagement Policy?

A: It is important that students are involved in the development of the school's Student Engagement Policy. By becoming involved in the development of the policy, you will be able to express your views and expectations about the school environment, which is important since you spend so much time at school. In addition, by becoming involved in the development of the Student Engagement Policy you will also help shape your school's expectations in regards to your rights and responsibilities as an important member of the school community.

Schools will approach students to provide input and feedback into the development of their Student Engagement Policy. This input may be via focus groups, surveys, questionnaires or other forums and formats the school considers appropriate.