THE GOER STANDARDS FOR ONLINE SCHOOLS

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Contents

1. Teaching and Learning

1.1 Curriculum Design: The curriculum is designed to be engaging, accessible, and relevant to the diverse needs of all students.

1.2 Pedagogical Approach: Employ innovative and effective online teaching strategies that promote active learning and critical thinking.

1.3 Assessment and Feedback: Implement fair and comprehensive assessment methods, providing timely and constructive feedback to students.

1.4 Learning Resources: Ensure access to high-quality, diverse, and up-to-date learning resources that support the curriculum.

1.5 Digital Literacy: Promote digital literacy skills for both students and educators, preparing them for success in a digital world.

1.6 Personalised Learning: Offer personalised learning pathways to cater to individual student needs and learning styles.

2. Student Welfare

2.1 Mental Health Support: Provide comprehensive mental health resources and support services for students.

2.2 Social-Emotional Learning: Integrate social-emotional learning programs to foster empathy, resilience, and positive relationships.

2.3 Anti-Bullying Policies: Establish clear and effective anti-bullying policies and procedures.

2.4 Student Engagement: Encourage student participation and involvement in school activities and decision-making.

2.5 Accessibility and Inclusion: Ensure that all online platforms and resources are accessible to students with disabilities.

2.6 Wellbeing Programs: Offer programs that promote physical health, mindfulness, and overall wellbeing.

3. Safeguarding

3.1 Online Safety Training: Provide regular online safety training for students, staff, and parents.

3.2 Data Protection: Implement strict data protection policies to safeguard student information and privacy.

3.3 Reporting Mechanisms: Establish clear reporting mechanisms for safeguarding concerns and incidents.

3.4 Supervision and Monitoring: Ensure appropriate supervision and monitoring of online interactions.

3.5 Emergency Procedures: Develop and communicate clear emergency procedures for online incidents.

3.6 Background Checks: Conduct thorough background checks on all staff and volunteers.

4. Leadership

4.1 Vision and Strategy: Develop a clear vision and strategic plan for the online school that aligns with its mission and values.

4.2 Professional Development: Invest in ongoing professional development for teachers and staff to enhance their online teaching skills.

4.3 Data-Driven Decision Making: Use data and analytics to inform decision-making and improve student outcomes.

4.4 Innovation and Technology: Foster a culture of innovation and embrace new technologies to enhance the learning experience.

4.5 Community Partnerships: Build strong partnerships with parents, community organisations, and other stakeholders.

4.6 Continuous Improvement: Implement a system for continuous improvement based on feedback, evaluation, and research.

5. Governance

5.1 Legal and Regulatory Compliance: Ensure compliance with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

5.2 Policies and Procedures: Establish clear policies and procedures for all aspects of the online school's operations.

5.3 Financial Management: Manage finances responsibly and transparently.

5.4 Risk Management: Identify and mitigate potential risks to the online school's operations.

5.5 Accountability: Establish mechanisms for accountability and oversight.

5.6 Ethical Conduct: Promote ethical conduct and integrity in all school activities.

6. Communication with School Community

6.1 Transparency: Maintain open and transparent communication with parents, students, and staff.

6.2 Feedback Mechanisms: Establish mechanisms for gathering and responding to feedback from the school community.

6.3 Communication Channels: Utilise a variety of communication channels to reach different audiences.

6.4 Timely Information: Provide timely and relevant information about school activities, policies, and procedures.

6.5 Crisis Communication: Develop a plan for communicating effectively during a crisis.

6.6 Community Engagement: Encourage active participation from all members of the school community.

7. Ethos, Ethics, Equity & Diversity

The school will implement and champion Indigenous, regional, and culturally diverse epistemologies within the curriculum and overall school culture. It will actively resist tokenistic inclusion, digital colonialism, and one-size-fits-all approaches to education by promoting localised knowledge, community engagement, and intergenerational learning across global contexts. To ensure meaningful equity, the school will apply tools such as equity audits, intersectional analysis, and disparity tracking.

7.1 Inclusive Curriculum: Develop and implement a curriculum that is inclusive of diverse perspectives and experiences.

7.2 Anti-Discrimination Policies: Establish clear anti-discrimination policies and procedures.

7.3 Cultural Sensitivity Training: Provide cultural sensitivity training for staff and students.

7.4 Accessibility and Accommodations: Ensure accessibility and accommodations for students with diverse learning needs.

7.5 Safe and Supportive Environment: Create a safe and supportive environment for all students, regardless of their background or identity.

7.6 Community Partnerships: Partner with community organizations to promote diversity and inclusion.

8. Extra-Curricular Activities

8.1 Diverse Opportunities: Offer a diverse range of extra-curricular activities to cater to student interests.

8.2 Virtual Clubs and Activities: Provide opportunities for students to participate in virtual clubs and activities.

8.3 Student Leadership: Encourage student leadership and involvement in extra-curricular activities.

8.4 Social Interaction: Foster social interaction and collaboration among students through extra-curricular activities.

8.5 Skill Development: Provide opportunities for students to develop new skills and talents.

8.6 Community Engagement: Connect extra-curricular activities to the broader community.

9. Staff Support

9.1 Professional Development: Provide ongoing professional development opportunities for staff to enhance their skills and knowledge.

9.2 Work-Life Balance: Promote a healthy work-life balance for staff.

9.3 Technology Support: Offer adequate technology support and resources for staff.

9.4 Collaboration and Communication: Foster collaboration and communication among staff members.

9.5 Recognition and Appreciation: Recognize and appreciate staff contributions and achievements.

9.6 Mental Health Support: Provide mental health resources and support for staff.

10. Use of AI

10.1 Ethical Guidelines: Establish ethical guidelines for the use of AI in education.

10.2 Data Privacy: Ensure the privacy and security of student data when using AI tools.

10.3 Transparency: Be transparent about the use of AI in education.

10.4 Teacher Training: Provide training for teachers on how to use AI tools effectively.

10.5 Equity and Accessibility: Ensure that AI tools are accessible and equitable for all students.

10.6 Critical Evaluation: Encourage critical evaluation of AI tools and their impact on learning.

11. Future Vision

11.1 Innovation: Continuously explore and implement innovative approaches to online education.

11.2 Adaptability: Be adaptable to changing technologies and educational trends.

11.3 Global Collaboration: Foster global collaboration and partnerships to enhance the learning experience.

11.4 Personalized Learning: Expand personalized learning opportunities for students.

11.5 Research and Development: Invest in research and development to improve online education practices.

11.6 Lifelong Learning: Promote lifelong learning for students and staff.

12. Summary

The GOER Standards for Online Schools provide a comprehensive framework for creating high-quality online learning environments. These standards cover key areas such as teaching and learning, student welfare, safeguarding, leadership, governance, communication, ethos, extra-

curricular activities, staff support, AI use, and future vision. By adhering to these standards, online schools can ensure that they are providing students with a safe, engaging, and effective education.