Buddies Policy  
Date: October 2008

1. **Rationale**
At Williamstown North Primary School, the Buddy Program assists in the development of positive relationships among students. It is targeted at matching Year 6 students with Prep students. Other year levels may establish social connections outside the Buddy Program. The Buddy Program is based on the Alanna and Madeline Foundation, “Better Buddies” program.

2. **Aims**
2.1 To foster a friendly and cooperative learning environment at Williamstown North Primary School.
2.2 To provide the opportunity for senior and junior students to develop positive relationships with each other.
2.3 To enhance a caring playground environment by encouraging tolerance, understanding and friendship across year levels.

3. **Implementation**
3.1 In Term 4, Year 6 students will be paired with incoming Kinder children participating in the Kinder to School Transition program to establish a ‘Buddy’ relationship for the following year.
3.2 Once established ‘Buddy Groups’ will meet weekly and participate in activities designed by the class teachers.
3.3 Buddy Groups will remain throughout the year.
3.4 A member of the School Well-being KRG will be designated to oversee the implementation of the Buddy Program.
3.5 Where grades across the school establish a social connection with a grade in another level outside the Buddy Program then this should be referred to by a title different to “Buddy Grade”.
3.6 Where there is an imbalance in the number of senior and junior students, two students may share a Buddy.

4. **Evaluation/Review**
The program will be carefully monitored and changes will be made where appropriate. This will occur annually with feedback from the Professional Learning Teams, Leadership Team and the School Wellbeing KRG.

Policy will next be reviewed annually.

This policy was updated on 28th October 2008