



# Yarraville West Primary School Statement of Values and School Philosophy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 2021
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	December 2021



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Nicole Arnold or Sally Emery, 9314-7714.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our school community and explain the vision and mission of our school.

## POLICY

Yarraville West Primary School is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. Our school recognises the importance of the partnership between our school and parents and carers to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe school environment for our students.

The programs and teaching at Yarraville West Primary School support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- elected government
- the rule of law
- equal rights for all before the law
- freedom of religion
- freedom of speech and association
- the values of openness and tolerance.

To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our school community, we

- display posters and banners that promote our school values
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

## VISION AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Yarraville West Primary School's vision is to strive to improve and extend the achievements of our students, recognising the importance of academic and social skills, problem solving, creativity and adaptability.

Our mission is to provide a comprehensive curriculum that is differentiated, supportive, creative and challenging for all students. Yarraville West Primary School is a dynamic learning community preparing our students to be life-long learners in the 21st century.

Our philosophy is underpinned by the following beliefs and practices:

- All children can learn
- Learning outcomes will be maximised when children feel happy and safe at school
- Students must be encouraged to be active and self-directed in their learning
- Equity and our school values are profiled within all planning documents

## VALUES

We embrace the School Values of **Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Teamwork**. They are an integral part of our school ethos.

This is the essence of our values as written by some of our Grade 5/6 students:

**Respect** can be seen through your behaviour toward other people. If you are respectful to others, they will be respectful to you. Respect is showing appreciation and consideration of other's rights and beliefs.

**Responsibility** – Some responsibility you want. Some you just have to have. Responsibility is an important part of learning and growing up. To be responsible is to be mature, take pride in what you do and help out even when not asked to.

**Resilience** – Being resilient can be hard. Picking yourself up again, and again, and again...but it's worth it in the long run. Don't give up even though you might not be the greatest at what you are doing...keep trying!

**Teamwork** is when a group of people work together to produce something amazing! People bring different skills to a team. This means that you can achieve more than if you work on your own.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Yarraville West Primary School acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture. We acknowledge a shared responsibility to create a positive learning environment for the children and young people at our school.

As principals and school leaders, we will:

- model positive behaviour and effective leadership
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- work collaboratively to create a school environment where respectful and safe behaviour is expected of everyone
- behave in a manner consistent with the standards of our profession and meet core responsibilities to provide safe and inclusive environments
- plan, implement and review our work to ensure the care, safety, security and general wellbeing of all students at school
- work with parents to understand their child's needs and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- respond appropriately when safe and inclusive behaviour is not demonstrated and implement appropriate interventions and sanctions when required

- inform parents of the school's communication and complaints procedures
- ask any person who is acting in an offensive, intimidating or otherwise inappropriate way to leave the school grounds.

As teachers and non-teaching school staff, we will:

- model positive behaviour to students consistent with the standards of our profession
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- proactively engage with parents about student outcomes
- work with parents to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- work collaboratively with parents to improve learning and wellbeing outcomes for students with additional needs
- communicate with the principal and school leaders in the event we anticipate or face any tension or challenging behaviours from parents
- treat all members of the school community with respect.

As parents and carers, we will:

- model positive behaviour to our child
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- ensure our child attends school on time, every day the school is open for instruction, unless there is a reasonable excuse.
- take an interest in our child's school and learning
- work with the school to achieve the best outcomes for our child
- communicate constructively with the school and use expected processes and protocols when raising concerns
- support school staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students
- follow the school's processes for communication with staff and making complaints
- treat all school leaders, staff, students, and other members of the school community with respect.

As students, we will:

- model positive behaviour to other students
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community.
- follow and model school values
- behave in a safe and responsible manner
- respect ourselves, other members of the school community and the school environment.
- actively participate in school
- not disrupt the learning of others and make the most of our educational opportunities.

## UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOURS

Schools are not public places, and the Principal has the right to permit or deny entry to school grounds (for more information, see our *Visitors Policy*).

Unreasonable behaviour that is demonstrated by school staff, parents, carers, students or members of our school community will not be tolerated at school, or during school activities.

Unreasonable behaviour includes:

- speaking or behaving in a rude, manipulative, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via electronic communication or social media, or over the telephone
- the use or threat of violence of any kind, including physically intimidating behaviour such as aggressive hand gestures or invading another person's personal space
- sending demanding, rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic or derogatory comments
- the use of social media or public forums to make inappropriate or threatening remarks about the school, staff or students.

Harassment, bullying, violence, aggression, threatening behaviour and unlawful discrimination are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at our school.

Unreasonable behaviour and/or failure to uphold the principles of this *Statement of Values and School Philosophy* may lead to further investigation and the implementation of appropriate consequences by the school Principal.

At the Principal's discretion, unreasonable behaviour may be managed by:

- requesting that the parties attend a mediation or counselling sessions
- implementing specific communication protocols
- written warnings
- conditions of entry to school grounds or school activities
- exclusion from school grounds or attendance at school activities
- reports to Victoria Police
- legal action

Inappropriate student behaviour will be managed in according with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy* and *Bullying Prevention Policy*.

Our *Statement of Values and School Philosophy* ensures that everyone in our school community will be treated with fairness and respect. In turn, we will strive to create a school that is inclusive and safe, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

[Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy](#)