



STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

PURPOSE

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

POLICY

Orchard Grove 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 Orchard Grove 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.

This policy outlines our school's vision, mission, objective, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website, our staff induction handbook and in hard copy from the front office.

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

- display posters and banners that promote our values in our school;
- 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.

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY, VISION and VALUES

Orchard Grove Primary School is committed to providing a safe, nurturing environment that engages curiosity, promotes learning, personal growth, and wellbeing for all students. We strive to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who are active, adaptable, and resilient lifelong learners. We aim to promote international-mindedness and develop students who are valued and respected members of our local and global communities.

Orchard Grove Primary School has a commitment to zero tolerance of child abuse and is committed to child safety. We support and respect all children as well as our staff and volunteers. We want all children at this school to be safe, happy and empowered.

Vision

We believe that every child can learn and every child has the right to learn at their point of need and beyond. Through high quality teaching practices, every student develops the mindset, knowledge, skills and dispositions to be confident, life long learners.

Our staff are part of a passionate culture of educators who do their work with excellence and operate harmoniously.

Through active partnerships with our community, students grow to understand the broader global community and become dynamic citizens within it.

School Values:

Orchard Grove Primary School's values are:

RESPECT – treating people with dignity and property with care

We:

- treat others the way we like to be treated;
- believe that everyone has the right to their own opinion and should be able to say what they think without being put-down;
- think before we speak eg. Will my comment hurt someone's feelings?
- look after our own and the school's property;
- make sure to apologise if we do/say something wrong/hurtful.

VALUING DIVERSITY – accepting and celebrating difference

We:

- like people to be different because it makes the school interesting;
- accept and value everyone regardless of colour, culture, race, religion, gender, disabilities, skill level or religion;
- take an interest in the different cultures and customs of our school mates;
- accept that people have different likes and dislikes;
- are all good at doing different things. Everyone is good at something.

INTEGRITY – displaying honesty and trust with ourselves and others

We:

- always tell the truth;
- keep our promises and other's secrets;
- return lost property to the rightful owner;
- don't tell others how to behave and then do the opposite ourselves;
- take responsibility for our actions.

WORKING TOGETHER – shared effort and responsibilities when working towards common goals

We:

- listen to one another and share our ideas;
- work as a team, letting people do jobs that match their talents;
- make a big job small by working cooperatively;
- take turns;
- realise that everyone is a valued member of our classroom;
- encourage our team mates;
- help others to learn new things.

FOSTERING GROWTH – promoting academic, social, emotional and physical development

We:

- have-a-go at new things;
- try hard to do our best at all times;
- let people know that we are proud of their achievements;
- try to stay fit and healthy;
- act as good role models for other students;
- learn from our mistakes.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Orchard Grove 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;
- identify and support students who are or may be at risk;
- do our best to ensure every child achieves their personal and learning potential;
- 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;
- 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;
- comply with 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.

As community members, we will:

- model positive behaviour to the school community;
- treat other members of the school community with respect;

- support school staff to maintain a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students;
- utilise the school's processes for communication with staff and submitting complaints.

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 accordance 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Department policies and guidelines:

DET Policy and Advisory Library:

[Bullying Prevention](#)

[Child Safe Standards](#)

[Visitors in School](#)

The following school policies are also relevant to this Statement of Values and School Philosophy Policy:

[Bullying Prevention](#)

[Child Safe Policy](#) (including Child Safety Code of Conduct)

[Child Safety Responding & Reporting](#) (including Mandatory Reporting)

[Student Wellbeing and Engagement](#)

[Visitors' Policy](#)

Review Cycle And Evaluation

Ratified by school council on 2021

Scheduled for review in 2024