

OAKLEIGH SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL 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

Oakleigh South 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 Oakleigh South 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 enrolment/transition packs.

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

- display posters that promote your 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.

VISION

Oakleigh South Primary School's vision is for each child to become a happy and confident person, well equipped for the challenges of life-long learning, contributing to the society in which they live and be able to achieve their full academic, creative and social potential. At the heart of Oakleigh South Primary School's educational philosophy is the firm belief that all students can become successful learners and that there are no predetermined limits to what students can accomplish at any age.

MISSION

Oakleigh South Primary School's community works collaboratively and shares common goals, values and beliefs about the best way to support children and families on their educational path.

We encourage respectful, collaborative relationships between children, families, the school, communities and educators, with our common focus being the child. We value an inclusive, supportive and caring environment where children, families and educators come together as a community of learners. We provide support to each child to promote their health and wellbeing through a spirit of warmth and respect underpinned by a commitment to social justice.

We respect and celebrate the culture and diversity within our community and beyond. We support the individual needs of our children to develop the view that learning is fun, exploratory and exciting.

A broad range of materials, activities, approaches and interconnected learning experiences encourages each child to discover and develop their own strengths. Students are also taught to recognise those areas where they may need assistance or practise to master required skills and content.

Our school philosophy includes a firm commitment to ensuring child safety and wellbeing and ensuring that our school meets all the requirements of the Child Safe Standards inclusive of the following:

1. strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements
2. a child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety
3. a code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
4. screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel
5. processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
6. strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse
7. strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children

The school will review our commitment to the Child Safe Standards annually and ensure we continue to provide a high quality, safe and caring school environment.

VALUES

Oakleigh South Primary School's values are respect, excellence, integrity, resilience and working together.

RESPECT	Treat people with tolerance, acceptance, understanding and respect. Show appreciation and care for the school environment.
EXCELLENCE	Strive to achieve personal best. Be persistent in everything you do, never give up.
INTEGRITY	Be trustworthy and honest with each other. Take and accept responsibility for your own actions.
RESILIENCE	Dealing with ups and downs and still holding your head up. The capacity to deal with change and bounce back during difficult times.
WORKING TOGETHER	Actively contribute to your school. Learn from each other.

SCHOOL OBJECTIVES

It is important to our community that our students:

- are literate, numerate and confident to take their place in their world
- are successful, self-motivated and independent learners

- have high, but realistic expectations of themselves
- handle challenging situations constructively
- are responsible learners empowered to make decisions that positively affect their lives and society
- work co-operatively with their peers and other members of the school community
- are tolerant, respectful and appreciative of people and their differences
- have personal values and attributes such as honesty, resilience, empathy and respect for others', and the capacity to act with integrity
- use ICT effectively and appropriately to access, create and communicate information and ideas, solve problems and work collaboratively

We encourage students to:

- be self- motivated, take responsibility for their own behaviour and pride in their achievements
- recognise that mistakes are part of life which we can learn from and forgive
- practise gratitude – develop a sense of wonder and appreciation for the people in their life and the things they do, have and learn
- develop an awareness of their preferred learning style and what helps or hinders their learning
- develop effective decision making, problem solving, creative and critical thinking skills
- value their own cultures, languages and beliefs, and those of others
- be personally and socially competent
- learn to operate effectively as a part of a team
- undertake leadership roles through a variety of whole-school and classroom responsibilities and opportunities
- minimise their carbon footprint by engaging in sustainable practices

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Oakleigh South 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 our 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 the school's 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 the 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.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on August 21, 2019 and is scheduled for review in August 2022.