

# 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

Yarram 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 Yarram 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 and in our enrolment/transition packs.

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

- display 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
- provide staff professional development and induction
- regularly evaluate to measure performance of our school with respect to the areas addressed in this policy.

## VISION

Yarram Primary School's vision is to support individuals to achieve their potential – academically, emotionally and physically.

## MISSION

Our mission is to continue to develop a learning environment which supports individuals to achieve their full potential – academically, emotionally and physically, equipping our students to contribute productively in a global community.

School council approved this policy on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019

## OBJECTIVE

Yarram Primary School's objective is to produce individuals with skills, attitudes and knowledge to contribute to a global community.

## VALUES

At Yarram Primary School, we value:

- **Respect and trust**
- **Teamwork** which provides support and features cooperation between students, staff, parents and the broader educational and general community
- **Learning** with high, realistic expectations that strive for excellence and work towards continual improvement
- **Having fun** to promote a work/life balance and a spirit of cooperation and enjoyment in a safe and secure environment that honours and nurtures diversity.
- **Professional commitment** by all staff to ensure high professional and ethical standards
- **Local school and community traditions** i.e. Welcome BBQ, active contribution to the Yarram Schools Cluster and involvement in special events such as the Tarra Festival, the Yarram Eisteddfod and Yarram Show.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Yarram 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 staff members, we will:

- model positive behaviour to students consistent with the standards of our profession
- communicate politely and respectfully with the school community
- work collaboratively to create a school environment where respectful, inclusive and safe behaviour is expected of everyone
- 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
- work with parents/carer and other relevant professionals to understand each child's needs and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- respond appropriately when safe and inclusive behaviour is not demonstrated and implement our agreed behaviour matrix
- inform parents of the school's communication and complaints procedures
- 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

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- 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
- treat all staff, students, and other members of the school community with respect.

As students, we will:

- participate fully in our educational program
- display positive behaviours that demonstrate respect for ourselves, our peers, teachers and members of the school community
- respect the right of others to learn
- comply with and model school values
- behave in a safe and responsible manner.

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 mediation or counselling sessions

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- 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

See *Student Wellbeing and Engagement policy*.  
*Complaints Policy*

## REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019