

# 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 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, 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 news
- 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 full potential – academically, emotionally and physically.

## MISSION

Yarram Primary School's mission is to provide a learning environment which supports individuals to achieve their full potential – academically, emotionally and physically – to equip them to contribute productively in a global community.

## OBJECTIVE

Our school's objectives are considered as part of the 4 yearly strategic planning process and reflected in the goals listed in our current School Strategic Plan (SSP). We also develop an Annual Implementation Plan to operationalise the goals and key improvement strategies contained in our SSP.

## VALUES

At Yarram Primary School our values make the acronym STAR and are:

- **Strive**
  - We set goals and work towards them.
  - We keep trying when things get tough.
  - We embrace challenges.
  
- **Together**
  - We collaborate and connect with others in our school and community.
  - We value diverse perspectives, embracing the strength of our differences.
  - We support and encourage others to succeed.
  
- **Achieve**
  - We set high standards for ourselves and our learning.
  - We can all succeed.
  - We take pride when we do well.
  
- **Respect**
  - We use kind words and actions towards ourselves and others.
  - We take care of our environment and property.
  - We follow expectations.

## 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/carers 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
- 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
- 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
- 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 handbook/manual
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)

Example school policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Complaints Policy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2023
Consultation	Education Sub Committee School Staff Principal School Council
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	August 2026