



# 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

Eastwood 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 Eastwood 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 packs.

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.

## VISION

Our vision at Eastwood Primary School is to provide a challenging, enriching, safe and supportive environment that develops responsible and resilient individuals.

## OBJECTIVE

We come to the safe and friendly environment of Eastwood Primary School to achieve our academic potential in positive, challenging and vibrant learning spaces. Eastwood Primary School embraces diversity and seeks to build community; ensuring we become responsible members of the global society.

Eastwood Primary School seeks to help build self-confidence, self-esteem and resilience in order for our students to approach future life experiences, opportunities and challenges with self-assurance and energy.

## VALUES

At Eastwood Primary School we value:

### **Honesty, Resilience, Respect and Kindness**

The values support the school community to work collaboratively and respectfully together for the common good and are used to reflect on the way we interact with each other. The values are also taught explicitly through a regular, cross-age pastoral C.A.R.E program. These values also provide the whole school community with a common language around community 'norms'.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Eastwood 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 Principal, school leaders, teachers and non-teaching staff we have a responsibility to;

- fairly, reasonably and consistently, implement the Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy.
- know how students learn and how to teach them effectively.
- know the content we teach.
- know our students.
- plan and assess for effective learning.
- create and maintain safe and challenging learning environments.
- differentiate the curriculum through inclusive teaching practices.
- use a range of teaching strategies and resources to engage students in effective learning.
- model school values.
- provide support programs and student services that meet the needs of individuals.

Parents/carers have a responsibility to;

- promote positive educational outcomes for their children by taking an active interest in their child's educational progress and by modelling positive behaviours.
- ensure their child's regular attendance.
- engage in regular and constructive communication with school staff regarding their child's learning.
- support the school in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students.

Students have a responsibility to;

- participate fully in the school's educational program and attend regularly.
- display positive behaviours that demonstrate respect for themselves, their peers, their teachers and all other members of the school community.
- demonstrate respect for the rights of others, including the right to learn, and contribute to an engaging educational experience for themselves and other students.
- take greater responsibility for their own learning and participation as members of the whole school community as they progress through the school. This involves developing as individual learners who increasingly manage their own learning and growth by setting goals and managing resources to achieve these goals.

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.

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

*Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy*

*Bullying Prevention Policy*

*Child Safe Policy*

*Child Safe Code of Conduct*

*Complaints Policy*

## REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in November, 2018 and is scheduled for review in 2021.