



# Statement of values and school philosophy statement

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## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our school community and explain the vision and philosophy of Bunyip Primary School.

Bunyip Primary School is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our school community. Our school recognises the importance of the partnership between our school and parents and carers to support student learning and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe school environment for our students. Bunyip Primary School implements the Child Safe Standards to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students at the school and to promote an organisational culture that manages the risk of child abuse and neglect.

The programs and teaching at Bunyip 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

To celebrate and embed our school vision, values and expectations in our school community we

- Celebrate our vision and expectations in our school newsletter
- Provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate school expectations
- Discuss and explicitly teach our vision and expectations with students in the classroom and at assemblies.

## School vision

Bunyip Primary School's vision is to empower students to embrace learning, achieve their personal best and build their emotional, social and physical wellbeing.

## Philosophy and values

"The purpose of Bunyip Primary School is to provide a high quality education to all of our students, which will enable them to become effective members of society."

We believe this is best implemented as a Learning Community where:

- Learning is our focus
- All members of the School Community accept the responsibility for increasing their own learning
- All members of the School Community accept the responsibility to assist others to increase their learning

The School's three values underpin all aspects of our work. They are:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Resilience

At Bunyip Primary School, we look to the future with a sense of optimism and a positive frame of mind. We believe that our Professional Learning Community approach, combined with an understanding of and commitment to our core purpose will move us forward. We are constantly striving to provide the best possible learning opportunities for all members of our Learning Community.

## **Enactment of the school philosophy**

The Bunyip Primary School Strategic Plan will be our focus when enacting the school philosophy. The main components include student learning and student wellbeing.

In everything we do as a school, there will be expectations about all work aligning with the school vision. Regular evaluation processes will be in place to measure performance in all areas of the school with respect to the implementation of the vision and values of the school. In all work in the school, the question “Is this work or process in line with the school vision and values?”, and does it fall under a branch of the current Strategic Plan. This question will be a fundamental part of the practice of all leaders in the school.

As 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 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 well being 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 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 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 behaviours and demonstrate high regards for the value of education 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

- Support school staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students
- Follow the school's processes for communication with staff and make 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 respectfully and politely with all members of the school community
- Comply with and model school expectations
- Behave in a safe and responsible manner
- Respect ourselves, other members of the school community and the school environment
- Actively participate in school
- Respect 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 behaviour

Schools are not public places, and the Principal has the right to 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 behaviours are those that are considered inappropriate on and adjacent to school grounds or in relation to school business and that do not uphold the principles of this Statement of Values.

Unreasonable behaviour includes:

- Speaking or behaving in a rude, manipulative, aggressive way, either in person, via electronic communication or social media, or over the telephone
- The use of 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 attendance at 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 Anti-Bullying 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 Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Parent Code of Conduct Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Visitors and Volunteers Policy

### **Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed every 4 years by School Council to confirm / enhance internal control measures. Proposed amendments to this policy will be discussed with relevant staff and School Council if applicable.

*Ratified by School Council: December 2021*

*Policy to be Reviewed: December 2025*