Deepdene Primary School

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact:
Tim Green (Principal) or Chris Vlahos (Assistant Principal) Ph: 9817 1917

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

Deepdene 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 Deepdene 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 school handbook and our Policies Booklet.

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

- display posters and banners 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

Deepdene Primary School's vision is to provide a high functioning learning community that engages, inspires and supports students to achieve their best and become caring lifelong learners. To continue to foster strong relationships based upon mutual respect with an appreciation of our cultural diversity. We value quality teaching and providing learning opportunities for all students.

MISSION

Deepdene Primary School's mission is to provide students with the best possible foundation in life through a well-rounded education.

OBJECTIVE

Deepdene Primary School's objective is to provide our students with educational opportunities that will enable them to reach their full potential and achieve success academically, socially and personally. Our curriculum is inclusive and developmental. Students are challenged to extend their skills and knowledge in a caring and supportive environment. It is most important that children are happy and engaged during their seven years at primary school.

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

Deepdene Primary School's values are compassion, honesty, integrity, respect, responsibility and inclusion.

The whole school approach to student welfare focuses on the values of:

Care and Compassion – care for self and others

Doing Your Best – try hard and pursue excellence

Honesty – be honest, sincere, truthful and trustworthy

Integrity – ensure consistency between words and deeds

Respect – treat others with consideration and respect another person's point of view

Responsibility – contribute to the school community and take care of the environment

Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion – show understanding of others and their cultures, treating all people fairly

At Deepdene Primary School we believe:

- Children, parents and teachers work in strong supportive partnership within the school community
- Children work in a safe, secure learning environment and are actively encouraged to be self-motivated, independent life-long learners
- Children work and play cooperatively
- Children make responsible decisions for their behaviour and actions
- Children are challenged, extended, motivated and supported in their learning through high quality instruction

Deepdene Primary School is committed to promoting a highly effective learning community. Energy, enthusiasm, team spirit and effective teamwork between children, parents and all staff members are key features of life at our school.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Deepdene 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 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 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 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 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 induction processes
- Included in transition and enrolment packs as a component of the School Handbook
- Included in School Documentation on Compass so that it is easily accessible to parents, carers and students
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

RELATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

- Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy
- Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy

Local school policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	14/02/2025
Approved by	School council- February 2025- presentation of the Policy at the first meeting of the year
Next scheduled review date	February 2028 (noting that the recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years)