



# 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

Preston 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 Preston 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.

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
- Explicitly teach what our values look like at age appropriate levels.

## SCHOOL NARRATIVE

At Preston Primary School our positive school culture is based on student engagement being the basis for learning. To support this, our leadership team is actively engaged in developing classroom practice to ensure that our pedagogy and curriculum engages all students. Effective teaching, inclusive and engaging curriculum and respectful relationships between staff and students is promoted. Our professional learning teams encourage innovative curriculum developed using the Victorian Curriculum.

Building strong relationships are an important feature of our school. Our staff, students, and parents work together to do their best for our school. We have high expectations of our students and encourage them to reach their full potential by equipping them with the skills they will need in the future. We aim for our students are confident, respectful and engaged. They have a genuine sense of fairness, are willing to give things a go both as individuals and as part of a team and enjoy the challenges involved in learning.

## VISION

Preston Primary School's vision is to sustain a culture throughout the school in which every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential in a caring and supportive environment. To provide a range of stimulating and engaging programs which highly value and enhance personal learning and wellbeing, sporting and creative development.

## MISSION

Preston Primary School aims to provide a safe, stimulating and supportive environment that develops all students to their full potential – academically, socially and personally. We instil in children a lifelong love of learning.

## OBJECTIVE

The objectives of Preston Primary School are clearly documented in our Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plans.

<u>Student Learning:</u>	To improve student achievement in English and Mathematics, with a particular focus on students achieving significantly above and below expected levels
<u>Student engagement and wellbeing:</u>	To develop resilient, persistent and confident students who have a strong sense of responsibility for their own learning and who demonstrate connectedness to their peers, the school and their teachers
<u>Student pathways and transitions:</u>	Develop connectedness within and across the school and prepare students to effectively participate in every stage of the learning continuum

**All decisions made by School Council and the Leadership Team are made to ensure we are providing a safe, stimulating and supportive environment directed at improving opportunities, and pathways to our core business – our students.**

## VALUES

Preston Primary School's values are **Respect, Resilience, Responsibility and Learning Success.**

At Preston Primary we are committed to creating an encouraging environment which promotes and **supports excellence in learning**, recognises individual **success**, and **demonstrates respect and teamwork** between students, staff, parents and the wider school community.

All stakeholders strive to develop skills, knowledge and confidence which promotes personal **resilience**

We foster **positive mutual interaction** so all stakeholders can show **respect** and honesty with each other.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Preston 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 to School 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.

Further information and resources

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 2024
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	September 2028