



Newington Primary School

STATEMENT OF VALUES & 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

Newington 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 Newington 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/information handbook and enrolment/transition 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

Newington Primary School's vision is 'Inspire, Inquire, Grow'

MISSION

At Newington Primary School, we develop active, global citizens who have the confidence, empathy and resilience to make a positive difference in our world. We empower our students to be creative and critical thinkers, who collaborate with others. We engage in challenging, concept-driven, inquiry learning that promotes learner agency.

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

Newington Primary School values are aligned with the IB- PYP Learner Profile. Our values are:-

Value/Attribute	Looks Like	Value/Attribute	Looks Like
Open-minded	<p>We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others.</p> <p>We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.</p>	Courageous	<p>We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and co-operatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies.</p> <p>We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.</p>
Inquirer	<p>We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research.</p> <p>We know how to learn independently and with others.</p> <p>We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.</p>	Communicators	<p>We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways.</p> <p>We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.</p>
Knowledgeable	<p>We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.</p>	Balanced	<p>We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives – intellectual, physical, and emotional – to achieve wellbeing for ourselves and others.</p> <p>We recognise our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.</p>
Caring	<p>We show empathy, compassion and respect.</p> <p>We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.</p>	Principled	<p>We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere.</p> <p>We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.</p>
Thinkers	<p>We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems.</p> <p>We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.</p>	Reflective	<p>We thoughtfully consider the world and our ideas and experience.</p> <p>We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.</p>

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Newington Primary School acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture.

Staff have a range of expectations around behaviour and must follow our school and Department policies and the Victorian Public Service Code of Conduct and Values. Teaching staff also adhere to the [Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#).

Students are supported by school staff to meet expected standards of behaviour as outlined in our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Inclusion and Diversity Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy.

Information about the expectations on parents and carers to ensure schools remain respectful and inclusive places is outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#) and our Respect for School Staff Policy.

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:

- being violent or threatening violence of any kind, including physically intimidating behaviour such as aggressive hand gestures or invading another person's personal space
- speaking or behaving in a rude, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via email, social media, or over the telephone
- sending demanding, rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- discriminatory 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 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
- Parent Complaints Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2022
Approved by	School Council – November 2022
Next scheduled review date	2025