

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND PHILOSOPHY POLICY

Help for non-English speakers



If you need help to understand this policy, please contact our School Welfare Officer or a member of our front office administration team.

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

Garrang Wilam 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 Garrang Wilam 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, annual newsfeed and enrolment/transition packs.**

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

- display posters and banners that promote values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsfeed
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies
- ensure students have an active voice in developing the expected behaviours of our values
- implement the seven elements of School Wide Positive Behaviour Framework.

VISION

Our students excel in the vibrant, positive and connected community we create together.

MISSION

We invite all students to come and learn, to belong and work collaboratively in their pursuit of learning. Our people are invested in deliberate practice to create a community that truly makes a difference. Our community will develop over time through shared experiences and an aligned focus on what matters; learning.

OBJECTIVE

Our endeavor is that after 7 years of education your child is just as curious and displays a yearning for learning as when they first arrived filled with wonder. Education is about the 'Aha' moments when a child's world expands and connects. The first moment is when they have learnt to read. They have mastered that symbols have sounds, that a collection of sounds make words, they can decode and read with purpose and meaning. They are able to transfer their thinking into meaningful words to entertain, persuade and inform for a variety of audiences. Writing is powerful. We want your child to see the purpose and connection in all that they do. That moment when they apply problem solving and mathematical thinking to make a robot dance, or engineer and print a 3D object to a design solution or maybe even create an image or make a sculpture come to life through enhanced digital technology.

We want your child to understand how their brain works and what their body needs to function, flourish and thrive. We want your child to learn a language that is not their first. But most of all we want your child to understand they can influence their world now and into the future. After all, this generation will be the ones who will live with sustainable environmental solutions and probe for innovative policies and practices to work with Artificial Intelligence in an ethical and social manner.

VALUES

A respect of all cultures and beliefs is an essential characteristic of global citizens, thus we live by a set of values that underpin this. We want our students, staff, parents and community members to show;

Together -Be a team player by

Strength - Be courageous

Focus -Be a learner

Lead -Be influential by

The success of our outcomes is due to our collective approach to

- Positive education
- High expectations
- Clear instructional framework for teaching and learning
- Using evidence and research to make decisions
- Partnerships

OUR GOALS

- Student learning growth
- Empowering student voice, leadership and agency
- Building pride and confidence

OUR IMPERATIVES ARE

- Safety, people, culture
- Organisational capacity and capability
- Consistent teaching and learning framework

OUR METRICS

- Student achievement, student voice, goal development and wellbeing outcomes
- Parent opinion and contribution
- Staff development and wellbeing

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Garrang Wilam 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.

The school has a clearly defined set of expected behaviours (expectations and rules), procedures for teaching and practising expected behaviours, continuum of procedures for acknowledging expected behaviour and a continuum of procedures for responding to problem behaviours. It is expected that students are experiencing success through engaging and relevant content appropriate to their level and appropriate teaching and learning strategies. However from time to time students will experience conflict with each other. It is expected that all staff interact in these matters using a positive conversation intent. They are expected to be calm, consistent, brief, immediate and respectful. It is expected that students will listen to each other and also remain calm and respectful. If a student deviates from the expected behaviours there is a staged response.

As principals and school leaders, we will:

- model positive behaviour and effective leadership
- implement the seven elements of the School Wide Positive Behaviour Framework and engage with our staff and students
- high and consistent expectations of all staff, students and parents and carers
- prioritise positive relationships between staff and students, recognising the fundamental role this plays in building and sustaining student wellbeing
- work collaboratively to create a culture that is inclusive, engaging and supportive
- welcoming all parents/carers and being responsive to them as partners in learning
- provide students with the opportunity to contribute to and provide feedback on decisions about school operations
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- 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
- respond to inappropriate student behaviours following preventive strategies and responses to minor and major behaviours.
- 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
- have high expectations for all students
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- proactively engage with parents about student outcomes
- experiencing success through engaging and relevant content appropriate to their level and appropriate teaching and learning strategies
- work with parents to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- provide students with the opportunity to contribute to and provide feedback on decisions about school operations
- 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
 - participate with good intent
 - maintain a positive conversation intent. Remain calm, consistent, brief, immediate and respectful when managing differences of opinions
 - ensure all policies and procedures are understood and implemented.

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
- maintain the reputation of Garrang Wilam Primary School both verbally and online
- 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
- practise expected behaviour and accept the actions from the continuum of procedures for responding to problem behaviours
- behave in a safe and responsible manner in both face to face and online interactions
- 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 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

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)

GWPS school policies:

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

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 process
- Discussed at staff briefings/ meetings as required
- Discussed at student forums/ through communication tools
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

Policy review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	07/09/2022
Consultation	School Council - July 2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	September 2025