

Bendigo Primary School Statement of Values and 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

Bendigo 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. Our school motto is 'My Best' which is applicable to all who enter the school. Students at Bendigo Primary School should expect to be included in an environment of high expectations where they are both able and enabled to learn.

The programs and teaching at Bendigo 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, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website, our staff induction handbook, and referenced in our enrolment/transition packs.

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

- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

Vision

At Bendigo Primary School we aim to provide for all students a challenging learning environment and the educational, technological and social skills that enable them to become valued members of the community. We will work with all stakeholders to ensure staff, students, parents/carers and visitors feel welcomed, safe and protected within our school community.

Mission

We believe that students should be successful learners and when required they may need personalised learning that aims to fulfil the diverse capabilities of each student.

To work in partnership with students, staff and families, to support students to be successful learners and to 'Be their Best'.

We 'walk the talk' in our behaviours, language we use and inclusive approach to all.

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

Overarching and interwoven into our school's Philosophy are the following five principles: Self-awareness, Self-control, Self-motivation, the Management of Relationships, and Empathy. [from The Wilson Mc Caskill Programme] It is the cornerstone of the school's Social and Emotional Intelligence and Wellbeing Curricula.

Our core values are Integrity, Respect, Honesty and Inclusion.

We respect ourselves, our school and each another, and understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people around us.

We work together to create a safe space for all and where everyone feels included.

We model and demonstrate kindness and take every opportunity to help others that may be in need.

We strive for excellence, which means trying our hardest and doing our best.

Behavioural expectations

Bendigo 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](#).

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 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.

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
- Referenced in transition and enrolment packs
- Made available in hard copy from the school office upon request.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	December 2022
Approved by	School Council 5/12/2022
Next scheduled review date	Before 2026