



Garfield 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 the school office.

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

Garfield 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 Garfield 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, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website, enrolment packs or in hard copy through School Administration as requested.

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

- display posters that promote our values within our school
- celebrate our values through our web-site and regularly through 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

At the time of creating this policy, our vision has not been drafted. This is a priority for 2025.

MISSION

Garfield Primary School will strive to ensure all students learn the necessary academic, social and emotional skills to become positive members of society and the community.

OBJECTIVE

Garfield Primary 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.



Garfield Primary School

Statement of Values and School Philosophy

VALUES

Garfield Primary School's values are *safety, respect and learning*.

We endeavour to keep ourselves and everyone around us safe through the choices that we make and the behaviours that we demonstrate.

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

We value learning and all of the learning opportunities that we get throughout each school day. We understand that learning can look different for different students but we maintain high expectations of ourselves which supports all students in achieving their personal best.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Garfield 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 within our matrix of expectations as well as 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 Principal.



Garfield Primary School

Statement of Values and School Philosophy

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 as an annual reference in school newsletter
- 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](#)

Garfield Primary School policies:

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Policy last reviewed | June, 2024 |
| Consultation | School Council – Monday, June 24 th 2024 School Community via email on Tuesday, June 25 th 2024 |
| Approved by | Principal – Daniel Forster and School Council |
| Next scheduled review date | June, 2026 |