

# STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact our Administration Office on 9370 8784.

Ascot Vale West Primary School is located close to the Royal Melbourne Showgrounds and the Flemington Racecourse. The school serves about 200 families of diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds and family structures. Based on the school's Student Family Occupation index, which takes into account parents' occupations, the school is in the low to mid-range. The proportion of students with English as a Second Language is high. The school enrolment is stable at present with enrolments of around 297 over the past few years.

The school community embraces and benefits greatly from its multicultural mix. Parents and the broader community are encouraged to be involved in the life of the school through training programs, information sessions and by participating in school programs or community events. Links with the broader community have been forged with neighbouring schools, community supports (e.g. Wingate Community Centre) and with local businesses.

## 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

Ascot Vale West 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 Ascot Vale West 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, school information booklet & Prep Information Booklet.

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

- display posters that promote our school values
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- align our student management with our school values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

## VISION

Our motto, *'Strong Foundations, Strong Future'* positions the school as one that strives to ensure that our students become responsible, motivated life-long learners who exhibit high levels of connectedness to their learning, teachers and fellow students.

## MISSION

Whilst literacy and numeracy are our main focuses, the school community recognises and values the need to educate the whole child. Great emphasis is therefore placed on maintaining positive culture of student wellbeing and engagement so students can thrive now and in the future. In addition, the school offers a broad curriculum program to enrich learning and stimulate and develop skills and talents in a range of areas.

## OBJECTIVE

At Ascot Vale West Primary School, we place great value on developing students who are outward looking and knowledgeable about the world, able to appreciate and be open to various forms of social and cultural diversity and actively participate as responsible citizens who are equipped to live and work together in an interconnected world.

The school aims to foster academic and personal development of its students through the provision of an authentic and engaging environment that includes a broad and comprehensive curriculum.

The school has recognised the need for a stronger focus on student involvement in decision-making including learning programs; the broader school environment and the importance of providing quality specialist program to support and enhance classroom programs.

The school provides a positive, safe and orderly learning environment that supports and develops students' capabilities, recognising individual talents and skills in all areas for all students.

In addition to the above objectives, the school values and supports its teaching and ancillary staff with professional learning opportunities to meet the teaching and learning, engagement and wellbeing goals.

The school welcomes and encourage participation of the wider school community to support its vision for all students.

## VALUES

At Ascot Vale West Primary School, we are a diverse and inclusive school community that lives the values of:

- Being a Learner
- Being Respectful
- Being Safe

The school values its dynamic and multicultural mix which adds vibrancy to the school community. Students are empowered to strive for the best educational outcomes in a safe and orderly environment.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Ascot Vale West 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 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

- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement*
- *Communication with School Staff*
- *Respect for School Staff*
- *Complaints Policy*

## REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in March 2023 and is scheduled for review in March 2025.