

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY POLICY

Rationale:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our school community and explain the vision, mission and objectives of our school.

Aims:

Oxley 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.

Implementation:

The programs and teaching at Oxley 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 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 your values in our school at the front of the school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values through our affirmations wall
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

VISION

Oxley Primary School promotes and **develops lifelong learners by working with children to:**

- Develop confident learners who demonstrate high levels of understanding curriculum
- Creates socially competent individuals who contribute to the broader community
- Develop enquiring minds and a spirit of curiosity
- Adopt a proactive approach to care for our planet
- Develop independent thinkers who are adaptive and resilient in a changing world



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- Foster respect and responsibility for self and others
- Motivate children who value learning.

MISSION

Oxley Primary School's vision is to '**Nurture confident, lifelong learners, in a friendly rural community**'.

OBJECTIVE

Oxley Primary School's mission statement also gives students:

- Caring, learning partnerships between teacher, parent and child
- Comprehensive extra-curricular programs, including social, cultural, and environmental aspects that develops the whole child
- An ethos of support, challenge and encouragement to succeed
- Using new technologies that link the child to the local and global communities
- A safe and caring learning community that values fun and enjoyment
- A relevant curriculum focused on the child's current and future needs
- A whole school approach to developing a culture of care for our planet
- A stimulating learning environment through innovative teaching and an investigative approach to learning

VALUES

The shared expectations of the school and community are designed to promote the following values in and out of the school that the students developed:

Respect: recognising and accepting (or even better) celebrating differences in opinion ability, race and religion.

Showing respect at Oxley Primary School is when:

- *We actively listen with our eyes and ears and follow instructions,
- *We use our manners and are fair to others,
- *We have a positive attitude and always try to do our best.

Honesty: truthfulness and open communication.

Honesty at Oxley Primary School is when:

- *You do something wrong, you own up to it and it makes you feel relieved,
- *You self-umpire in games,
- *You are true to yourself and don't try to be someone else.

Care: caring for myself, others and the environment.

Caring at Oxley Primary School is when:

- *People treat you the way you would like to be treated,
- *You look after the schools and other people's property,
- *We look after the environment.



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Responsibility: willingness to be accountable for personal behaviour.

Being responsible at Oxley Primary School is when:

- *You complete the tasks you have been asked to do,
- *You are reliable and trustworthy to be counted on,
- *You take control of your own actions / the way you act.

Excellence: doing our best at all times.

Excellence at Oxley Primary School is when:

- *You put in lots of effort into everything you do,
- *You keep the school clean and tidy,

Our behaviour is always of the highest standard.

We act from what we think not from our emotions.

We therefore expect everyone that enters the school to uphold these values written by the students and the teachers.

The school recognises that all children learn in different ways and at different rates. We aim to equip every student with the skills needed to ensure lifelong learning.

A cohesive and enthusiastic School Council provides strong leadership and parent participation in decision making. In addition, school based activities such as performances, sport, fundraising and special events are proving an effective means of informal communication between parents and teachers. Parents can support the school by ensuring regular attendance, modelling positive behaviours and assisting their children with their work.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Oxley 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.

We believe it is the **right** of every individual to feel safe in a supportive environment, to have an equal opportunity to learn and to have their individuality, ideas and property respected.

We further believe that it is the **responsibility** of every individual to care for themselves and others and to respect the rights of all.

STUDENTS

RIGHTS	RESPONSIBILITIES
<p>To be able to learn and feel secure in a safe, supportive environment.</p> <p>To have his/her opinion and property respected.</p> <p>To have appropriate access to school facilities</p> <p>To have appropriate access to the teacher.</p> <p>To know what is acceptable behaviour and the consequences of unacceptable behaviour.</p> <p>To have his/her individual learning style understood and catered for.</p>	<p>To act in a safe, responsible manner and to be supportive of fellow students.</p> <p>To be considerate of others' feelings and respect their belongings. Speak respectfully to all school community members.</p> <p>To take care of and share school equipment.</p> <p>To respect the rights of others to share the teacher's time.</p> <p>To be aware of the school rules and accept consequences when necessary. To attend school unless unwell.</p> <p>Attend Parent/student/teacher interviews and participate in goal setting?</p>

STAFF

RIGHTS	RESPONSIBILITIES
<p>To work in a pleasant, safe environment and to be treated with courtesy by all.</p> <p>To be able to implement appropriate management strategies for children who are interfering with the rights of others</p> <p>To contact parents/carers when necessary and to expect their support.</p> <p>To be informed of any family situation or home problem that may affect a student's learning or behaviour.</p> <p>To be involved in a collaborative decision - making model within the school.</p> <p>To be seen as an individual able to express a point of view.</p>	<p>To act as role models and provide suitable, interesting activities while maintaining a safe environment.</p> <p>To understand policies and policy changes within Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Victoria.</p> <p>To be consistent and fair in the implementation of these management techniques.</p> <p>To be approachable, to listen and be prepared to consult with parents.</p> <p>To act appropriately and discreetly and make time to act on information.</p> <p>To reflect on school based issues and be prepared to consult, contribute and negotiate. To encourage others to think about, respect and value others' opinions.</p> <p>Encourage and celebrate consistent student attendance.</p>

PARENTS and COMMUNITY MEMBERS

RIGHTS	RESPONSIBILITIES
<p>To have information on school processes and curriculum.</p> <p>To be able to participate in school decision making processes.</p> <p>To expect consistent approaches to behaviour management by teachers throughout the school.</p> <p>To expect that there will be no form of discrimination against parents or children.</p> <p>To receive and offer information regarding their child's educational progress and behaviour.</p>	<p>To understand policies and policy changes within Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Victoria.</p> <p>To notify school of student absences.</p> <p>To make time to be involved and support their child/ren.</p> <p>To reinforce/support school practices at home and advise the school of any concerns.</p> <p>To be aware of the adverse effect of discrimination and to model appropriate behaviours to the child at home.</p> <p>To ask for assistance and/or interviews and to be aware of any home problems that may affect the child's learning.</p> <p>To speak respectfully to all school community members.</p>

UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOURS

Schools are not public places, and the Principal has the right to permit or deny entry to school grounds.

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.



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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*.

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.

References:

Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
Equal Opportunity Policy

Important Notes:

REVIEW DATE	February, 2020
APPROVED AT SCHOOL COUNCIL	20/02/2020
NEXT REVIEW DATE	February, 2022