

## WOORAGEE PRIMARY SCHOOL STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY 2021

### 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

Wooragee 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. These relationships are central to our practice and form the foundation of our positive community culture. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe school environment for our students.

The programs and teaching at Wooragee 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.

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

- display posters and banners that promote our values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide acknowledgements for students who actively demonstrate the values
- explicitly teach our values with students during social and emotional learning

### VISION

Wooragee Primary School's vision is to provide quality education in a holistic learning environment, empowering students to be purposeful members of a global community.

### MISSION

Wooragee Primary School's mission is to engage and empower our students to:

- Develop a love of learning and value being a learner
- Be literate, numerate and technologically skilled
- Be environmentally and globally aware
- Celebrate similarities and differences
- Select and evaluate information and be intellectually curious
- Be problem solvers who are able to think creatively and critically
- Work in teams with skills in cooperation, communication and negotiation
- Be flexible, adaptable and have persistence, so they are better able to adapt to change or when they experience discomfort

- Be community builders, with strong social competencies, resilience and self-esteem
- Know *how to learn* and want to continue to learn
- Move from being supported learners to autonomous, independent learners

## OBJECTIVE

Wooragee Primary School's objective is to create an effective teaching and learning environment that provides the opportunity for children to:

- Be engaged in their learning and feel empowered through student voice and agency
- Kindly and respectfully engage with others
- Be participants who inquire and question
- Draw and build on their existing knowledge, understandings and interests
- Make real world connections
- Apply their learning to authentic situations, questions and issues
- Develop higher order thinking and processing skills
- Explore and develop their own values and attitudes and consider those of others
- Develop positive learning habits; effort, resilience, persistence and questioning
- Utilise a range of learning strategies and approaches

## VALUES

Wooragee Primary School's values are Respect, Resilience, Responsibility- 'The Wooragee Way'

### *Respect*

For self, for others, for the environment and community.

### *Resilience*

Trying hard (effort), bouncing back, persisting.

### *Responsibility*

For our learning, for our thoughts, for our actions.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Wooragee 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 WPS Behaviour expectations
- 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 WPS Behaviour expectations
- 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 WPS Behaviour expectations
- model positive behaviour to our child/ren
- 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 WPS Behaviour expectations
- 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 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

*Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*

*Inclusion & Diversity Policy*

*WPS Behaviour Expectations*

*Parent Code of conduct*

## REVIEW CYCLE

Policy last reviewed	May 2021
Approved by	Claudia Keenan (School Council President)
	Alicia Odewahn (Principal)
Next scheduled review date	December 2021