



WATTLE PARK 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

Wattle Park 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 Wattle Park 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 <https://www.wattleparkps.vic.edu.au/>

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 and on our website
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- establish our values with our students as part of our 'Start Up Program' at the beginning of the year
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

Vision

Wattle Park Primary School's vision is outlined in our Strategic Plan available on our website. It is as follows:

Based on what is emerging and changing now, we can say that:

- Our lives and work lives will be swept by regular waves of change
- More work will involve international connections and citizenship will gain a more global focus
- More work will be multidisciplinary, involving new kinds of collaboration
- Far more jobs will mean working intimately with digital machines and intelligent systems
- More elements of work and life will use visual communication
- The world will be battling sustainability issues in ways that will affect most workers
- Citizenship responsibilities will only grow more complicated as societies confront new issues

How to prepare a child for an uncertain range of possible futures and for steady change is through what we as a school community is outlined in the 9 guiding beliefs and principles by Mr. John B. Mahaffie (Leading Futurist LLC).

- Love of Learning
- People sense
- Comfort with complexity
- Skill at learning
- Communication
- Goal setting
- Self-knowledge
- Worldliness
- Open minds

Values

Wattle Park Primary School's values are **Respect, Encourage, Value, Care, Challenge** and **to be Responsible**. All members of the school community are reminded to adhere to these values at all times.

Wattle Park Primary School recognises the importance of the partnership between schools and parents to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, ensuring inclusive, safe and orderly environments for children and young people.

We respect the diversity of individuals in our school community and address the shared responsibilities of all members in building safe and respectful school communities.

Discrimination, sexual and other forms of harassment, bullying, violence, aggression and threatening behaviour are unacceptable and will not be tolerated in this school.

We acknowledge that parents and school staff are strongly motivated to do their best for every child. Everyone has the right to differing opinions and views and to raise concerns, as long as we do this respectfully as a community working together.

Behavioural Expectations

Wattle Park 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 all non-teaching staff we will:

- Model positive behaviour to students consistent with the standards of our profession.
- 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, including all school staff, students and other school families.
- 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
- Comply with and model our school values of Respect, Encourage, Value, Care, Challenge, To Be Responsible
- Behave in a safe and responsible manner
- Respect ourselves, other members of the school community and the school environment
- Actively participate in school
- Support and encourage the learning of others
- 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

[Bullying Prevention Policy](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy](#)

[Visitors Policy](#)

[WPPS Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)

[Fraud & Corruption Policy](#)

[Raising Parent Concerns and Complaints Policy](#)

[Volunteers Policy](#)

[WPPS Child Safe Policy](#)

[Department of Education Vision and Values](#)

Review

This policy was ratified by School Council 19.5.2020