



Statement of Values and School 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

Ringwood Heights 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 learning community for our students.

The programs and teaching at Ringwood Heights 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.

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
- provide recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

Ringwood Heights is a student centred school, which intentionally aligns practice with three key purposes:

- To continue to promote an ethos where parents, students and teachers collaborate to provide a dynamic learning environment, which challenges and engages all learners in an atmosphere of mutual respect, tolerance and creativity.
- To focus on student learning opportunities in an environment that is rapidly changing in response to complex local and global conditions.

School council approved this policy on 21/7/2020.

- To develop learners with knowledge, skills, values, self-esteem and attributes that ensures personal fulfilment, lifelong learning and active citizenship.

We believe that a successful, lifelong learner;

Can *problem solve*, is *creative*, *shows initiative and takes risks*, is *flexible*, adaptable and open minded, can work effectively in *a team*, is *resilient*, can *communicate* effectively in a variety of ways, thinks reflectively and metacognitively, can think *critically*, understands the *diversity in the way they learn*, accepts some *responsibility* for learning, is *systematic and organised*, is *intelligent* in a range of ways, is digitally literate, is able to *research* : locate, gather, critique and communicate information, thinks *ethically*, has *understanding* of self, others and the physical world, is *emotionally* literate and responsive.

Teaching staff, therefore acknowledge value and nurture these skills and qualities within our students through the provision of an Integrated Inquiry approach to teaching and learning.

The educational opportunities offered at Ringwood Heights Primary School are stimulating and challenging. The individual needs and talents of students are identified and nurtured to support their learning as they move through different stages of development. We commit to understanding each students' needs and provide learning programs that support and enhance their academic and personal needs.

There is an emphasis on literacy, numeracy and thinking skills across the curriculum, so that we develop critical, creative and reflective thinkers. We endeavour to make learning engaging and relevant and encourage a curiosity and thirst for knowledge in our students. A comprehensive range of specialist and enrichment opportunities enables students to discover their areas of interests and expertise.

Parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's learning as the school has a shared belief that education is a partnership between all members of the community. Parents feel strong ownership of the school and are very involved in supporting school initiatives.

The school's motto "**Little Kids Thinking Big**" reflects our core values of **Creativity, Respect, Friendship, Responsibility** and **Teamwork**

VALUES

The school values of Respect, Teamwork, Responsibility, Creativity and Friendship are seen as the core of the school and central to how all members of the community interact with each other. We have many student leadership programs which encourage our students to be proactive and develop their "voice".

	<i>As a learner...</i>	<i>As a friend...</i>	<i>Around the school yard...</i>	<i>Online...</i>
Creativity	<p><i>Combine and connect our ideas.</i></p> <p><i>Take responsible risks in your learning.</i></p> <p><i>Think in different ways.</i></p>	<p><i>Encourage others to think differently.</i></p> <p><i>Treat each other fairly but differently.</i></p>	<p><i>Create new games.</i></p> <p><i>Find solutions to problems together.</i></p> <p><i>Use our environment to imagine.</i></p>	<p><i>Use your own ideas.</i></p> <p><i>Try new things.</i></p> <p><i>Use technology to show learning and express creativity.</i></p>
Respect	<p><i>Listen to other people's ideas.</i></p> <p><i>Encourage others.</i></p> <p><i>Use a quiet voice.</i></p>	<p><i>Show tolerance.</i></p> <p><i>Respect personal space.</i></p> <p><i>Take turns.</i></p> <p><i>Use manners.</i></p>	<p><i>Move safely around the school.</i></p> <p><i>Look after our natural environment.</i></p> <p><i>Respect the belongings of others.</i></p>	<p><i>Use appropriate language.</i></p> <p><i>Be careful with our equipment.</i></p> <p><i>Respect other people's privacy.</i></p>
Friendship	<p><i>Give positive feedback.</i></p> <p><i>Help and mentor others.</i></p> <p><i>Encourage the achievements of others.</i></p>	<p><i>Show compassion and consideration.</i></p> <p><i>Accept outcomes and move on.</i></p> <p><i>Be honest and trustworthy.</i></p>	<p><i>Use the friendship tree.</i></p> <p><i>Include others.</i></p> <p><i>Explain rules before you start to play.</i></p> <p><i>Be helpful to others in need.</i></p>	<p><i>Look out for your friends online.</i></p>
Responsibility	<p><i>Look after your belongings and be organised.</i></p> <p><i>Show initiative.</i></p> <p><i>Know and follow your class agreement.</i></p>	<p><i>Stand up for others.</i></p> <p><i>Remind your friends of appropriate behaviour.</i></p>	<p><i>Listen for the bell music and go straight to line.</i></p> <p><i>Tell a yard duty teacher if something is disrespectful or unsafe.</i></p>	<p><i>Follow the ICT agreement.</i></p> <p><i>Report anything that does not feel right to an adult.</i></p> <p><i>Only do things online that you would show everyone.</i></p>
Teamwork	<p><i>Share ideas and resources.</i></p> <p><i>Learn together.</i></p> <p><i>Offer to help others.</i></p>	<p><i>Encourage others to get involved.</i></p> <p><i>Look out for others in your group.</i></p>	<p><i>Show sportsmanship.</i></p> <p><i>Work together to keep our school tidy.</i></p>	<p><i>Work collaboratively online.</i></p> <p><i>Make positive connections with others online.</i></p> <p><i>Use devices collaboratively.</i></p>

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Ringwood Heights 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.

School council approved this policy on 21/7/2020.

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/ren
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- ensure our child/ren 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.

School council approved this policy on 21/7/2020.

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.

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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.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on June 2020 and is scheduled for review in June 2024 or as the DET advises.