



## STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the Principal on 54396366

### 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

Eppalock 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 Eppalock 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, included in our staff shared folder on the school network, 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 our values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

### VISION

Eppalock Primary School's vision is to prepare young people to become active, engaged and responsible citizens of the local and global community.

### MISSION

Eppalock Primary School's mission is to prepare students to contend with a very dynamic 21<sup>st</sup> century in which creativity, cooperative work, connectedness to the world and adaptability are key features. The school aspires to provide a contemporary approach to teaching and learning in its purposeful learning environment.



- We will provide a safe, calm and welcoming learning environment where every child is treated as an individual. Staff and children will be supported to be creative and innovative and we will encourage hands-on experiential learning opportunities.
- We will develop children who have a strong relationship to school and their community. The children will have a sense of self, understand how they learn, know their likes and strengths and appreciate that they have the talent and skills to play a constructive and positive role in the community around them.
- We will build and support an open, healthy and welcoming community that is visible in its practical support for the learning and wellbeing of each child. Children will be encouraged to embrace and celebrate difference and they will experience positive interactions with adults.
- We aim to foster a love of and for our natural environment and nurture a strong sense of stewardship within our students. Caring for our environment is a life long journey and we do it in our school as well as inspiring our students to reach further to effect global change for sustainability. We know that it's vital for a child to experience and playfully enjoy the natural environment and aim to involve them in authentic activities which enable them to touch, smell, see and hear it. Eppalock PS prioritises environmental sustainability.

## OBJECTIVE

Our school's objectives are considered as part of the 4 yearly strategic planning process and reflected in the goals listed in our current School Strategic Plan (SSP). We also develop an Annual Implementation Plan to operationalise the goals and key improvement strategies contained in our SSP.

## VALUES

Eppalock Primary School's values are Resilience, Responsibility, Respect and Kindness,

- *We strive to be resilient in our daily lives by working hard, giving our best effort and overcoming challenges with a positive mindset.*
- *We take responsibility for our own actions and work hard to make positive choices.*
- *We respect ourselves, our school and each other, and understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people and environment around us.*
- *We model and demonstrate kindness, and take every opportunity to help others that may be in need.*

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Eppalock PS 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
- ensure all parents/carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- 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, in line with the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#).
- ensure our child attends school on time, every day the school is open for instruction, unless there is a valid reason for not attending which has been communicated with the school.
- 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 we will 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:

- being violent or threatening violence of any kind, including physically intimidating behaviour such as aggressive hand gestures or invading another person's personal space
- speaking or behaving in a rude, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via email, social media, or over the telephone
- sending demanding, rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- discriminatory 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 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.

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter



- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request
- Included in the staff shared folder on the school network

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)

Eppalock Primary School policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- **Bullying** Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	16 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Approved by	School Council & School Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2025