



# 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

Westmeadows 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 Westmeadows 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, School Bag App, Staff Induction Booklet 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
- 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.

## SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Westmeadows Primary School has a long and rich history of building a strong bridge to each child's future. The school members of our community, past and present, are connected honouring unique partnerships between students, families and staff. We are located in the heart of Westmeadows creating a country town feel whilst being equipped with modern resources. At Westmeadows

Primary School, we are proud of each child and strive to celebrate and develop each of their individual qualities and their ongoing growth and success. Our school embraces diversity, incorporating our student's interests into the classroom, catering to their learning needs. Through targeted teaching and learning, strong guidance from the Victorian Curriculum and school values, staff are committed to forever learning alongside our students. At Westmeadows Primary School, memories are created that last a lifetime.

## SCHOOL PROFILE

Westmeadows Primary School is located in an established residential area on the north-west fringe of Melbourne, approximately 16 kilometres from the city centre. The school facilities include sixteen permanent classrooms, a Library, Sports Centre with a full size gymnasium, art room, music room, conference room and Out of School Care facility. The playground has areas for both active and quiet pastimes, including adventure playgrounds, shaded areas and synthetic grass areas and vegetable gardens. The school has an enrolment ceiling, with student enrolments stable at around 495 students and student attendance above the State Level. The 2020 staffing profile consists of a Principal, Assistant Principal, 3 Learning Specialists, a wellbeing coordinator, the equivalent of 20 full time classroom teachers and 8 part time specialists teachers. There are also 9 support staff who work in a range of administrative, classroom and student wellbeing support roles. The school curriculum is based on the Victorian Curriculum framework. Programs include all key learning areas with additional specialist classes in Physical Education, Visual Arts, Performing Arts LOTE (Italian) and Science. A range targeted strategies are provided to students who require additional learning support. Westmeadows Primary School also offers additional programs such as Interschool Sport, swimming, camp, lunchtime activities, student leadership opportunities and tailored transition programs.

## MISSION

Together, building the bridge to be your best.

## VISION

Together, we will foster a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment for all members of our school community. We commit to the holistic growth and success of every individual.

## EXPECTATIONS

Be safe

Be a learner

Be your best

## OBJECTIVE

Westmeadows Primary School's objective is to:

- Develop a high functioning and positive learning community.
- Empower students in their learning.
- Improve the Literacy and Numeracy learning outcomes for all students.

## VALUES

Westmeadows Primary School's values are Responsibility, Cooperation, Care and Compassion, Honesty and Respect.

Respect – Accepting others and taking of the environment

Honesty – Being trustworthy and truthful

Responsibility – Owning your decisions and setting a good example

Cooperation – Demonstrating excellent behaviour when working in teams and with others

Care & Compassion – Looking after yourself and being considerate of others

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Westmeadows 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 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 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
- 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
- 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 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 17/02/2020 and is scheduled for review in February/2024.