

# STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Hamlyn Views School on (03)52155700

## 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

Hamlyn Views 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, equitable, respectful and safe learning environment for all, including same-sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students and staff.

The programs and teaching at Hamlyn Views 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, objectives, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website, our staff Google Drive, and in the student enrolment pack.

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

- Display posters and banners that promote our values in the school
- Celebrate our values in the school newsletter
- Provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- Discuss our values with students in the classroom, at meetings and whole school assemblies
- Ensure the intent of this policy is reflected when interacting with school community members, and in decision-making processes for initiatives, policies and practices.

## VISION

To be an outstanding provider of inclusive education that provides individuality, fosters innovative practice and sets high expectations for all.

## MISSION

To create a safe, respectful, evidence-based learning environment where a diversity of student learners feel: valued, actively engaged, challenged and supported to achieve success and maximum independence post-school.

## OBJECTIVES

We aspire to be a centre of expertise in Inclusive Education characterised by our adherence to the Department of Education and Training (DET) *Practice Principles for Excellence in Teaching and Learning* and a belief that *all children can learn given sufficient time and support*. We are committed to:

- *Enhancing personal and social capabilities, and developing respectful relationships*
- *Preparation for changed routines, environments and life beyond school*
- *Ensuring every student has an effective mode of communication*
- *Use of school-wide positive behaviour support and promoting self-regulation skills*
- *Effective, timely and responsible use of digital technologies*
- *Team work, personal growth and life-long learning*
- *Establishing authentic Professional Learning Communities*
- *Showing pride in our school*
- *Transparent and ethical decision-making*
- *Embedding sustainability principles and practices*

### **At the end of their time at HVS, our hope for our students is to:**

- Achieve a level of skill which will allow them to perform daily living tasks and obtain employment and leisure opportunities.
- Use effective communication and positive social skills to be able to interact and be a happy and valued member within the community.
- Have the ability to safely access the community, make their own decisions know their rights and have a voice.
- Be resilient and motivated to achieve their life goals.

## VALUES

- **Learning:** We facilitate high quality learning and teaching programs based on current research and consistent with DET policy and curriculum.
- **Respect:** Our culture is based on positive relationships and care for ourselves, other people, our community and the environment.
- **Safety:** We ensure safety for all by implementing the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support Framework, and clearing communicating and modelling policies and processes.

In addition, Hamlyn Views School adheres to DET's "values" that are:

- *Responsiveness*
- *Integrity*
- *Impartiality*
- *Accountability*
- *Respect*
- *Leadership*
- *Human rights*

## CHILD SAFETY

Victorian Government Schools are child safe environments and Hamlyn Views School is cognisant of its obligations under the Child Safe Standards (Ministerial Order 870 – effective August 1, 2016) to protect students from all forms of child abuse. It actively promotes the safety and wellbeing of all students with school community members and has no tolerance for any form of child abuse.

## **BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS**

Hamlyn Views 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 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
- 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:

HVS has zero tolerance for any form of child abuse

- 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 Engagement and Wellbeing Policy*, *Positive Behaviour Support Policy*, *Bullying Prevention Policy* and other related policies, procedures and guidelines.

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

See our related school policies:

- *Student Engagement and Wellbeing*
- *Positive Behaviour Support*
- *Prevention of Bullying*
- *Inclusion and Diversity*
- *Respect for School Staff*
- *Staff Health, Safety and Wellbeing*
- *Visitors*

## EVALUATION

Regular evaluation processes will be enacted to measure performance in all areas of our school with respect to the implementation of its overarching vision and values. In all work with School Council and the school community, the fundamental question will be *"Is this work or process aligned to our school, vision, mission statement, objectives, values and beliefs?"*

## REVIEW CYCLE

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Policy last reviewed</b>       | October, 2019  |
| <b>Approved by</b>                | Principal and School Council                         |
| <b>Next scheduled review date</b> | 2023 - this policy has a review cycle of 3 - 4 years |