



HIGHVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

49. Statement of Values and School Philosophy

Endorsed by School Council: March 2023

Review date: March 2026



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact our School Office on 9887 8000.

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:

Highvale 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 Highvale 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, student enrolment packs and staff policy folder.

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
- regularly acknowledge students who actively demonstrate the values
- teach and discuss our values with students in the classroom, the broader learning environment, meetings and assemblies.

Vision and Purpose

Together with our school community we aspire to develop confident, socially responsible, happy students who are connected to each other and their *school*. Through explicit and personalised teaching a comprehensive learning foundation is developed and built upon to promote passionate, curious learners who can apply their learning in creative and innovative ways within a safe environment.

Respect

Responsibility

Honesty and Integrity

Commitment

Mission

Highvale Primary School's mission is to provide students with the best possible foundation in life through a well-rounded education.

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

Highvale Primary School's values are:

Highvale 'Achieving Excellence' through

- **Respect** Considering others, their property and the environment
- **Responsibility** Being reliable, resourceful and owning your actions
- **Honesty and Integrity** Being fair and trustworthy
- **Commitment** Persisting, giving your best and bouncing back

Behavioural Expectations

Highvale 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.

Staff have a range of expectations around behaviour and must follow our school and Department policies and the Victorian Public Service Code of Conduct and Values. Teaching staff also adhere to the [Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#).

Students are supported by school staff to meet expected standards of behaviour as outlined in our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Inclusion and Diversity Policy, Bullying Prevention Policy and through School Wide Positive Behaviours.

School Wide Positive Behaviours (Positive Behaviours for Learning – PBL)

The implementation of school wide positive behaviours for all students, parents and staff is an important whole school responsibility. The school encourages and expects positive behaviours which maximise student learning opportunities and lead to happy and safe classroom environments. It is also a right of both staff and students to participate in a classroom environment in which students adhere to clear behavioural expectations.

Information about the expectations on parents and carers to ensure schools remain respectful and inclusive places is outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#) and our Respect for School Staff Policy.

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:

Respect

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- 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
- Available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

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](#)

Highvale Primary School policies:

- 2 HPS Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- 8 HPS Complaints Policy
- 33 HPS Bullying Prevention Policy
- 53 HPS Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- 57 HPS Visitors Policy
- 60 HPS Respect for School Staff Policy.

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Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	March 2023
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	March 2026