



Learning for Life

## 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

Deer Park North 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 Deer Park North 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 on our school website.

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

- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide Student of the Week Awards and House tokens as recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

### VISION

Deer Park North Primary School is a learning community that fosters in students the knowledge, skills and dispositions to thrive as life-long learners.

Within our diverse community, we create high quality learning environments where every child can learn and will learn to the best of their ability.

Through the provision of positive experiences and a nurturing environment, our children develop confidence, social skills and healthy life habits.

### MISSION

In partnership with our school community, it is our mission to map practical and ambitious learning paths for each child through consistency of purpose, policy and practice.

## OBJECTIVE

Deer Park North Primary School has a vibrant and diverse community with a strong commitment to life-long learning.

Our agreed school values are to be **respectful, resilient, empathetic and your best**. These provide the foundation for a commonly shared understanding and expectation of behaviours and attitudes that are representative of all community members.

We believe in putting students and learning first and ensure that our educational environments are calm, caring, supportive and engaging, where learning is personalised and children's self-esteem is promoted. It is important that children have a positive and happy start to their school life, feel valued and confident in an atmosphere where they can achieve to the best of their ability.

DPNPS offers a variety of innovative programs that develop children's abilities and challenge their creativity and curiosity. Curriculum programs are based on the F-10 Victorian Curriculum Framework. A strong emphasis is placed on the curriculum areas of English and Mathematics. Units of work are developed by teaching teams using the inquiry learning approach where provision is made for the learning needs and interests of all students and learning is authentic and relevant.

## VALUES

Deer Park North Primary School's agreed values are to be **respectful, resilient, empathetic and your best**.

- *Be Respectful - Being someone who accepts the obligation to do something*
- *Be Empathetic - Being someone who considers the feelings of self and others*
- *Be Your Best - Being someone who does what is necessary to be considerate of others and values the environment*
- *Be Resilient - Being someone who copes with and recovers quickly from difficult situations*

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Deer Park North 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 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:

- 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.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

[STUDENT WELLBEING AND ENGAGEMENT - POLICY.DOCX](#)

[Visitors Policy.docx](#)

[Bullying Prevention policy.docx](#)

## REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 and is scheduled for review in July 2024