



MERENDA PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL 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 office on 8776 9700.

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

Mernda Park PS 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 Mernda Park PS 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 inclusion

This policy outlines our school's vision, mission, values, and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website, our staff induction handbook, 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 on our website and Principal's message
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings, and assemblies.

VISION

At Mernda Park PS our vision is to encourage our students to have high expectations of themselves and their work, and to produce their best. Learning is at the centre and purpose of all that we do aiming for high student outcomes and preparing students to pursue their chosen pathways, interests, and aspirations. All teachers and support staff work to provide a teaching pedagogy reflective of 21st Century designs including ICT rich environments and Personalised Learning for all students. At the same time an overarching emphasis is placed on nurturing the well-being of all students, providing a safe and secure environment. Mernda Park PS is an educational facility where the rights of others to learn are respected and it is the collective responsibility of everyone to ensure that this happens.

Our core business is to support students to become literate and numerate in readiness for an exciting future, which we today can only imagine. Through the Education State Initiatives planning and assessments utilise the Victorian Curriculum to delve into Literacy and STEAM subjects including Science, Technology, Engineering, The Arts and Mathematics. A range of technologies and experiences are available to assist students with their learning including various devices and software, which engage students to explore and create. To be successful in the future, current research shows that students need to be encouraged to be curious learners and develop skills in collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and communication. A feature of our school is our goal to support our students to work collaboratively and actively to problem solve with the aim of becoming resilient, happy, and curious students. Our curriculum meets students where they are at their own developmentally appropriate stage. Children are encouraged to collaboratively build knowledge from early years play based learning and oral language exploration to more rigorous investigation projects promoting a desire for deep learning that is the basis for all innovation. The scope of our curriculum is broad with Mernda Park PS having an outstanding Performing Arts and Sporting program, which is enhanced by the great facilities including a Netball Victoria, approved full sized netball court, a stage and audio-visual recording studio.

MISSION

It is the mission of Mernda Park PS to provide our students with a safe and supportive learning environment that motivates and challenges students to achieve their full potential.

We –

- are a school with student achievement, engagement, and wellbeing as its moral purpose
- are a vibrant high performing school with outstanding student outcome data
- have engaged, creative, happy, and resilient students
- have a staff dedicated to high quality teaching and learning
- have consistent, relevant, and documented curriculum reflecting best practice for the 21st century
- have well-developed and active community and parent partnerships in place.

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

Mernda Park PS's values are **CARE** – we care about each other and value...

Collaboration	– Working together
Achievement	– Doing our absolute best
Responsibility	– Choosing right, doing right
Empathy	– Being kind, considerate and helpful

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Mernda Park PS acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers, and students has an impact on our school community and culture.

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, and Bullying Prevention Policy can be found on our [School website](#).

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:

- 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 on our [school website](#).

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 staff handbook/manual

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](#)

Mernda Park PS policies, which can be found on our [website](#).

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	25/07/2023
Approved by	Principal – Mary Ryan School Council President – Janina Schuster
Next scheduled review date	Review Cycle is 3-4 years