



## 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 Principal on [chiltern.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:chiltern.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

### 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

Chiltern 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 Chiltern 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.

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.

### VISION

Chiltern Primary School's vision is to provide an encouraging, stimulating, supportive and engaging environment that fosters learning and enables students to develop the emotional, social, physical and academic skills required to adapt to and contribute to an ever-changing world. Chiltern Primary

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also seeks to ensure that all students, regardless of their ability or style of learning, have the opportunity to reach their full potential in a positive learning environment. We acknowledge that each child has unique interests, needs and abilities and our educational program takes this into account.

## MISSION

Chiltern Primary School's mission:

- is a place of committed, shared values where children learn respect for themselves, others and our environment
- is a place of excellence where children can achieve their full potential in their academic, creative, personal, physical, social and moral development
- fosters a partnership between children, parents, staff and the community as a whole
- sets high standards of learning and celebrates the achievements of each child
- is a caring place where children and adults feel they make a contribution and are valued as individuals
- school, family and community achieving together

## OBJECTIVE

Our school's objectives are considered as part of the 4 year 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. Chiltern Primary School's objective is to ensure all students leave our school with a practical understanding of the curriculum.

## VALUES

*Chiltern Primary School's values are:*

### Respect

- *Self – respect*
- *Acceptance of differences (cultures, beliefs, abilities, opinions)*
- *Feelings*
- *Your own and other's learning*
- *Courtesy and manners*
- *Personal space*

### Honesty and Fairness

- *Truthful*
- *Trustworthy*
- *Sincere*
- *Standing up for the rights of others*

### Care and Compassion

- *Sharing*
- *Encouraging*
- *Listening*
- *Helpful*
- *Thoughtful*

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- *Patient*
- *Forgiveness*
- *Understanding*
- *Inclusion*

## Responsibility

- *Own learning, behaviour and communication*
- *Environment: using sustainable practices*
- *Doing your best*

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Chiltern 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 must 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, Sexual Harassment Policy, Communication Policy, Complaints Policy, and Visitors Policy.

Information about the expectations on parents and carers to ensure schools remain respectful and inclusive places is outlined in the Departments Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy and our school Communication Policy.

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
- ensure all parents/carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the Departments Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy
- 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:

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- 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:

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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, manipulative, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via electronic communication or 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 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.

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included as annual reference in the school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*
- *Communication with School Staff Policy*
- *Bullying Prevention Policy*
- *Parent Complaints Policy*

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## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school communities in the following:

- Available publicly on our member school's website
- Included in induction processes for relevant staff
- Included as a link in all invitations to prospective volunteers
- Included in our member schools staff handbook/manual
- Discussed in an annual staff briefing/meeting
- Made available in hard copy from our member school administration upon request

## REVIEW PERIOD:

POLICY LAST REVIEWED	FEBRUARY 2023
APPROVED BY	SCHOOL COUNCIL
NEXT SCHEDULED REVIEW DATE	FEBRUARY 2025