



STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY POLICY

Edgars Creek Primary School 5310

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.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to the school community every week via the school newsletter and school website.

Edgars Creek Primary School will publish the statement of our philosophy on the school website.

Multiple forms of school documentation will reference the School Values, Vision, Motto and Whole School Code of Conduct.

POLICY

Edgars Creek 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/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 Edgars Creek 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, is part of our staff induction process, is seen by our students in their classrooms and forms part of our enrolment packs.

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

- display posters and banners that promote values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- have School Mascots to represent each value
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate these values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

VISION

Edgars Creek Primary School's vision is to empower all students to strive for excellence and become independent lifelong learners.

MISSION

Edgars Creek Primary School's mission is to provide a positive, vibrant and inspiring learning environment where students are the centre of all we do, valued and encouraged to become community minded citizens, capable of learning at high levels.

COMMITMENT

At Edgars Creek Primary School students are at the centre of everything we do.

MOTTO

Our School Motto is:

LEARNING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS

OBJECTIVE

Edgars Creek Primary School's objective is to ensure all students leave our school literate, numerate and with the skills to explore new learning they find curious.

We are committed to:

- High expectations of ourselves and others.
- Providing an educational program that develops students' curiosity and creativity.
- Developing responsible and engaged learners.
- Fostering tolerance, respect and acceptance of others.
- Building each student's resilience and self-esteem.
- Providing a curriculum that is rich and relevant and allows all students to succeed.
- Promoting a strong, supportive partnership between home and the school and the wider community.

VALUES

Edgars Creek Primary School's values are Respect, Courage, Curiosity and Responsibility.

Respect

We respect ourselves, connections with others, diversity, and the school environment.

We are caring and compassionate and value the rights, opinions and feelings of others.

Courage

We challenge ourselves and take responsible risks with our learning.

We do what we know is the right thing, even when it is very difficult and includes putting the interests of others ahead of our own self-interest.

Curiosity

We are open to new ideas and ways of thinking.

We learn in and with our community.

Responsibility

We strive to make good choices for ourselves and others by being dependable, independent, helpful and caring.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Edgars Creek 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.

Our school has overarching Rights and Responsibilities all community members are expected to abide by. They are:

The Right to be Safe

Everyone has the right to feel safe and comfortable at school.

The Right to Learn

Everybody has the right to learn as much as possible.

Personal Responsibility

I do the right thing.

Communal Responsibility

I encourage others to do the right thing.

As Principals and school leaders, we will:

- base our decisions on the needs of our students.
- 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.
- adhere to the ethos of our Edgars Creek Primary School Community Code of Conduct.

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.
- adhere to the ethos of our Edgars Creek Primary School Community Code of Conduct.

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 defined in our Edgars Creek Primary School Community Code of Conduct.

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 of Respect, Courage, Curious and Responsibility
- 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.
- adhere to the expectations of our Edgars Creek Primary School Community Code of Conduct.

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.
- adhere to the expectations of our Edgars Creek Primary School Community Code of Conduct.

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 Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*, *Bullying Prevention Policy* and *Community Code of Conduct*.

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

Edgars Creek Primary School Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

Edgars Creek Primary School Community Code of Conduct

Edgars Creek Primary School Bully Prevention Policy

Edgars Creek Primary School Child Safety Policy

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was approved by the interim School Council in November 2020 and is scheduled for review in June, 2024.