



STATEMENT OF VALUES & SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

LOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL: SCHOOL VALUES

Be Your Best
Be Creative
Be Curious
Be Resilient
Be Responsible
Be Respectful

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

Loch 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, safe and orderly school environment for our students.

Our Statement of Values acknowledges that parents and school staff are strongly motivated to do their best for every child. Everyone has the right to differing opinions and views and to raise concerns, as long as we do this respectfully as a community working together.

The programs and teaching at Loch 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, our staff induction handbook and enrolment/transition packs.

Dream, Achieve, Succeed

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

- display posters and banners that promote our 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

Our vision is to develop young people with active and creative minds, a sense of understanding and compassion for others and the courage to act on their beliefs. We create a challenging learning environment which develops students who are resilient, adaptable, equipped with skills, knowledge and dispositions to be life-long learners who become personally fulfilled and socially responsible members of their communities.

Our staff inspire, engage and nurture our students through a dynamic curriculum that supports the academic, social and emotional wellbeing of each child. Our parents are partners in creating a thriving learning community.

MISSION

At Loch Primary School we are providing an environment which enables students to

"Dream, Achieve Succeed".

Every child known, safe, inspired, challenged and empowered.

We aim to promote an environment that focuses on achievement by empowering and engaging students to become capable, confident and independent lifelong learners.

We also believe students need to be taught well. Loch Primary School is well known for its evidence based teaching approaches which ensures early and sustained success at school resulting in increased ability and self-esteem for future learning in Secondary School and beyond. The school provides adequate training to all its staff, resulting in a safe, positive and orderly environment where all students are expected to learn and achieve their potential.

OBJECTIVE

Our view of the future at Loch Primary School includes:

- an environment where confident students take responsibility for their learning
- a challenging and comprehensive curriculum that stimulates all students to do their best.
- celebrating successes and valuing effort and endeavour as students pursue excellence.
- a highly skilled staff who are motivated and enthusiastic about learning and teaching.
- respect for a teacher's right to teach and a student's right to learn.
- an environment where respect for others and unity between all members of the school community is highly valued.
- members of our school community treat each other with consideration and regard and are inclusive towards all.
- a caring and supportive environment which promotes honesty and where children feel safe and secure.
- positive relationships are valued and developed within our community.

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BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Loch 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.

Behaviour Education and Self-Management

Loch Primary School is proud to be a lighthouse school for the implementation of the "Play Is The Way" program. This philosophy is the cornerstone of our Social and Emotional Learning, Behaviour Education and Self Management approach. We see Behaviour Education and Self Management as a responsibility of the entire school community. Students, parents and teachers need to have a clear understanding of what is expected, in regards to how we treat each other, to ensure a welcoming learning environment that is supportive and safe.

Our belief is that PLAY IS THE WAY™ program is the most effective way to achieve our objective of socially and emotionally competent children who demonstrate empathy. Underpinning the Play is the Way approach are the Life Rafts and Virtues:

Life Rafts

- Treat others as you would like to be treated
- It takes great strength to be sensible
- Be brave participate to progress
- Have reasons for the things you say and do
- Pursue you personal best, no matter who you work with
- Be the master, not the victim of your feelings

Virtues

- Compassion
- Acceptance
- Resilience
- Courage
- Friendliness
- Good Manners

As principal 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

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- 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
- behave in a manner consistent with the standards of our profession and meet core responsibilities to provide safe and inclusive environments
- respond appropriately when safe and inclusive behaviour is not demonstrated and implement appropriate interventions and sanctions when required
- 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 - see Parent Code of Conduct, Complaints Policy, DET complaints guidelines

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/community/Pages/parentcomplaints.aspx>

- 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 and make the most of our educational opportunities.
- not disrupt the learning of other

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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.

The Department of Education and training will:

- Provide support and advice to principals to manage and respond to challenging behaviour of students, parents and staff.
- Provide practical guidance and resources to support schools to manage and respond to challenging behaviour of students, parents and staff.
- Provide practical guidance and resources to support schools to respond to and prevent bullying and promote cyber-safety and wellbeing.
- Provide access to evidence based resources and strategies to increase student safety, wellbeing and engagement.
- Provide schools with practical and legal support as required.
- Provide parents with practical guidance and resources to resolve conflicts with the school.

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
- speaks in an aggressive tone, either in person 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 raise concerns, make complaints against, make inappropriate or threatening remarks about the school, staff or students.
- uses social media to defame a person/ staff member or school spreading information that damages their reputation, or can make others think less of them.

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* 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

Please refer to our *Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Communication with School Staff, Parent Code of Conduct and Complaints policies*.

REVIEW CYCLE

School Council Approved this policy on August 2019 and is scheduled for review in August 2022.