



CHATHAM
PRIMARY SCHOOL
SINCE 1927

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STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Chatham Primary School 03 98301933.

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

Chatham 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 Chatham 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, objectives, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website and in our staff induction handbook and enrolment packs.

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 AND MISSION

Chatham Primary School is a supportive and engaging environment where students are encouraged and inspired to learn and grow. We believe in every child's unique ability and want them to become confident learners, who exhibit positive attitudes and become responsible global citizens. We teach

strong values to guide them in academics, social skills, emotions and physical development through highly inclusive, safe and supportive experience.

OBJECTIVE

Our school's objectives are considered as part of the 4-yearly strategic planning process and are 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 School Strategic Plan.

VALUES

Chatham Primary School is about creating a safe, fair and friendly connected environment. Students, teachers and parents are all committed to this idea in everything they do. Furthermore, our Motto, 'Be Safe, Be Fair, Be Kind' guides and inspires our strong school spirit and community in all our daily interactions at every level, and supports our six guiding values.

The Chatham Primary School Values are: Learning, Respect, Resilience, Partnership, Responsibility and Honesty.

- We cultivate lifelong Learning where individuals continually seek personal growth. By nurturing Respect for self and others, we foster a supportive atmosphere that fuels curiosity, enabling everyone to realise their potential.
- We teach Resilience to instil courage during challenges, emphasise positive Partnerships for success through collaboration and nurture Responsibility and Honesty to promote ethical choices.

Learning: We develop our learning by cultivating critical, creative and reflective thinking skills, fostering curiosity and adaptability, and pursuing personal growth.

Respect: We are considerate and instil kindness, fairness and the value of appreciating and accepting differences, fostering compassion and care for oneself, others and the environment.

Resilience: We can bounce back from challenges and setbacks. Our students learn to develop perseverance, flexibility and self-worth to overcome difficulties and continue to grow and learn.

Partnership: We collaborate, fostering cooperative, inclusive and positive relationships in our community to achieve shared goals.

Responsibility: We are reliable, accountable and trustworthy, taking ownership of our actions and recognising the impact of our choices on ourselves, others and the environment.

Honesty: We develop our confidence and act with integrity by being reliable, truthful and fair.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Chatham 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 students 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
- ensure all parents and carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the Department's [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:

- 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 and carers 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 and carers
- 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, in line with the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#).
- 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:

- 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*.

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
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included as an annual reference in the school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

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](#)

[Chatham Primary School policies:](#)

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2023
Consultation	04/09/2023: Staff Meeting, 10/10/2023: Education Committee
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	October 2027