



Preston South Primary School

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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 9484 1544.

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

Preston South Primary School is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. We recognise the importance of the partnership between the school and parent/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 Preston South Primary 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. They will form part of the school profile in the School Strategic Plan.

Statements will be displayed in public places readily accessed by parents/carers and visitors to the school. The statements also will be displayed in areas such as the staffroom, offices and meeting rooms so that decisions can be tested against the school Vision, Mission and Values statements.

The school will take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety issues. The safety and wellbeing of our school population is our highest priority and our first consideration.

We have **zero tolerance of child abuse**, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures.

The school expects that when the School Strategic Plan is updated, it will contain statements about the school's commitment to developing a child safe culture.

School Leadership should be willing and able to discuss the school philosophy with other staff and prospective parents/carers.

VISION

Preston South Primary School's vision is to encourage the development of the whole student. Our school empowers all students to embrace learning, achieve their personal best and build their emotional, social and physical well-being. We pride ourselves in a vibrant learning environment that nurtures partnerships and diversity.

MISSION

Preston South Primary School's mission is to empower students to acquire, demonstrate, articulate and value knowledge and skills that will support them, as life-long learners, to participate in and contribute to the global world and practise the core values of the school: respect, encouragement, achievement, cooperation and honesty.

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. Preston South Primary School has enthusiastic and skilled professionals who provide opportunities for students to thrive and reach their potential as global citizens within a challenging and nurturing environment. We are dedicated to inspiring students to make positive changes, in big and small ways. By actively teaching the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a major part of our curriculum, we have built strong community links both local and globally.

VALUES

Preston South's values are:

Respect:

- Showing consideration to others and valuing their opinions.
- Valuing people, property and the environment.
- Being open and friendly.

Encouragement:

- We say nice things about others.
- We reflect on our learning and set goals.
- Be proud of what you have accomplished.
- Encourage others, to seek help, to achieve their goals.

Achievement:

- Striving to be the best we can.
- Having high expectations and working towards them.
- Working towards excellence.

Cooperation:

- Working together to achieve a goal.
- Supporting others.
- Being a flexible team member.

Honesty:

- Being truthful to others.
- Being truthful to ourselves.
- Doing what is right regardless of who is around.

These values will be prominently displayed in all classrooms and throughout all areas of the school and constantly referred to in all aspects of school life. Our REACH expectation matrix at the start of the year focuses on introducing the values and related concepts to all students from Prep to Year 6. Our weekly 'Student of the Week' Awards presented at our Monday School Assembly promote our school values.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Preston South 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.

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
- 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 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, 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.

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.

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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 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.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	7/10/2025
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	7/10/2029

