

# STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Ferntree Gully North PS.

## 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

Ferntree Gully North PS 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. 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 Ferntree Gully North PS 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 and in our staff induction program.

At Ferntree Gully North PS our vision is to provide educational excellence through quality teaching and learning that stimulates curiosity and promotes further investigation. We promote and encourage the social, emotional, physical and intellectual development of all children. Our children are encouraged in a warm and friendly environment, to grow and become active and responsible members of the community.

## MISSION

We set high expectations for student achievement and behaviour and by communicating clear learning intentions and success criteria, our children develop an understanding of what is expected to achieve success. By providing a differentiated curriculum our teachers cater learning tasks to suit individual needs, allowing all children to achieve. We prepare our children with the skills to succeed in this ever-changing world and actively encourages our children to broaden their horizons to develop competent global citizens.

## VALUES

Ferntree Gully North PS is a unique community. We stand by our core values:

- Excellence: High expectations of the whole community
- Respect: For self and others
- Resilience: Engaging in challenges and learning from mistakes
- Integrity: choosing a course of action that contributes to the greater good

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.

## 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 (AIP) to operationalise the goals and key improvement strategies contained in our SSP.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Ferntree Gully North PS 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 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.

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 in our community
- ensure all parents/carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the school's Community Code of Conduct policy as listed on our website
- 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 and in line with our values and Play is the Way virtues
- 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 in line with our school values and Play is the Way virtues
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community, in line with the Department's Community Code of Conduct 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 and uphold our values and Play is the Way virtues
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- 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* available on the website).

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
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

- Community Code of Conduct
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy

All policies listed are available on our website or in hard copy from the office.

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2023
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	March 2027