



TRARALGON SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY POLICY

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:

Traralgon South 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 Traralgon South 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; and
- The values of openness and tolerance.

This policy outlines the vision, values and expectations of our school. This policy is available on our school website (www.traralgonsthps.vic.edu.au), or upon request from our General Office.

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; and
- Discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

1. Vision:

Traralgon South Primary School's vision is:

Our school community challenges and inspires us to be inquisitive and motivated learners with high expectation of ourselves. We will develop the skills to ably solve problems through life's challenges. Our values reflect our ambition to be community minded citizens for today, tomorrow and the future.

2. Values:

Traralgon South Primary School's values are:



Resilience	Accept responsibility	When you think you can't; you can	Learn from difficulties and bounce back
Independence	Show courage to do things by yourself	Be your own hero	Be someone that makes you happy
Persistence	Never give up	Try a different way if you're stuck	Remain focused on your goal
Pride	Be your best	Take care in everything you do	Celebrate when you achieve
Empathy	Understand differences in people	Looking out for those around us	Acceptance for others
Respect	Treat people equally	Be considerate of others and our environment	Celebrate differences

3. Behavioural Expectations:

Traralgon 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 in accordance with school policy;
- Inform parents of the school's communication and complaints procedures; and
- 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 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; and
- Communicate with the Principal and school leaders in the event we anticipate or face any tension or challenging behaviours from parents;

As parents and carers, we will:

- Model positive behaviour to our child;
- Communicate 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; and
- Follow the school's processes for communication with staff and making complaints.

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
- 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; and
- Utilise the school's processes for communication with staff and submitting complaints.

4. Schools are not public places, and the Principal has the right to permit or deny entry to school grounds (for more information, please see our *Visitors Policy*). Unacceptable 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. Unacceptable 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; or
 - 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.

5. Unacceptable behaviour and/or failure to uphold the principles of this *Statement of Values and School Philosophy Policy* 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; and/or
 - Legal action.
6. Inappropriate student behaviour will be managed according to relevant school and Department of Education and Training (DET) policies.
 7. Our *Statement of Values and School Philosophy Policy* 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.

REVIEW CYCLE:

This policy was last ratified by School Council on 18 May 2020 and is scheduled for review in 2023.