



STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Orchard Park Primary School on 03 5947 9100 or email us at orchard.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

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

Orchard Park 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 Orchard Park 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.

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

- display posters 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.

VISION

Orchard Park Primary School is committed to working collaboratively to ensure high levels of learning for ALL students. This enables each student to be successful in any field they choose. At Orchard Park Primary School, we continuously strive to improve our practice in order to achieve the best outcomes for every student we serve. Strong and positive relationships are fostered with all members of the school community to create a safe, connected and student-centred environment. OPPS is held in high regard within their community and the wider education field.

MISSION

It is the mission of Orchard Park Primary School to educate all students with the essential skills and knowledge to become resilient and lifelong learners who are active and positive members of their community.

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.

VALUES

Orchard Park Primary School's values are:

- **SAFETY**
We ensure a safe environment by following rules that protect everyone. We are mindful of our actions, whether in the classroom, playground, or online, and we take responsibility for keeping ourselves and others safe.
- **RESPECT**
We respect ourselves, our school, and each other, understanding that our attitudes and behaviors have a significant impact on those around us.
- **RESPONSIBILITY**
Responsibility at Orchard Park means taking ownership of our actions and making choices that reflect our commitment to our school community. We are accountable for our learning, behavior, and how we treat others.
- **RESILIENCE**
We value resilience as the ability to bounce back from challenges and keep moving forward, even when things get tough. At Orchard Park, we encourage a growth mindset, where mistakes are seen as opportunities to learn. We support each other in building the strength to persevere, fostering an environment where effort and determination lead to success.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Orchard Park 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.

Shared expectations of staff, parents, carers and students to support positive student behaviour are set out in the [Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour statement](#).

Students are also 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

Staff 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's Code of Conduct](#).

Parents and carers play a vital role in helping their child understand and meet shared behaviour expectations. Additionally, information about the expectations of parents and carers to ensure schools remain respectful and inclusive places is outlined in the department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#), and our

Respect for School Staff Policy. Schools can share these expectations through use of [posters](#) available in over [30 translated languages](#).

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 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
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- [Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour](#)

Orchard Park Primary School policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy
- Respect for School Staff Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	10/04/2026
Approved by	School Council – 22/04/2026
Next scheduled review date	Before April, 2030