

Statement of Philosophy and Values

Davis Creek Primary School aims to build a school culture that demonstrates a strong belief in providing a balanced and rigorous curriculum within a safe and collaborative learning environment in which our children can learn and flourish. We recognise that every child is unique. We celebrate uniqueness: we recognise that each of us is one-of-a-kind and acknowledge each other's strengths. We recognise and value the many varied ways in which we can learn and make sense of our world. We will have a clear focus on catering for the diverse range of students at their point of need. This will support the development of a culture of inclusion. We will provide a supportive, nurturing and challenging learning environment, with high expectations for student success.

We will strive to be internationally minded. Davis Creek Primary School is a diverse community who will live by a set of values, where an understanding and respect of all cultures and beliefs will be an essential characteristic of productive and compassionate citizens who strive to create a more peaceful world.

We will be committed to high expectations for all students to strive to achieve their personal best as well as prepare them to be creative, curious and critical thinkers and collaborative problem solvers who learn actively. Learning by doing connected to real life experiences will support students to develop the essential skills to support the development of a love of learning and a strong context for the transfer of lifelong learning skills.

A feature of the school curriculum will be an establishment of a strong focus on a nurturing child-centred, research and evidence-based education that develop the skills for learning so that children can thrive in our ever-changing world.

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

Davis Creek 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 too, and a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe school environment for our students.

The programs and teaching at Davis Creek 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, our staff induction handbook, student diary and enrolment/transition packs.

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.

Vision

Davis Creek Primary School's vision is to nurture a creative and collaborative learning environment where teachers and students can;

- achieve beyond their goals and provide excellence in teaching and learning in a safe and supportive education environment
- flourish as caring individuals who display compassion and build positive relationships
- embrace challenges and take principled action, both locally and globally developing international mindedness
- be engaged, empowered and energised learners who demonstrate a high level of agency
- develop positive and genuine partnerships with the community.

Mission

Davis Creek Primary School's mission is to develop and support a successful and inclusive environment where all students actively participate in and assume ownership of their learning. Together we create a rigorous instructional program, which promotes globally minded, creative, curious, confident, and reflective lifelong learners.

Objective

Davis Creek Primary School's objective is to

- provide a high-quality education that connects authentically to our world within a supportive, caring and energised environment
- create a positive culture of inclusion through developing an understanding and respect of different cultures and beliefs
- develop curious, critical and creative learners who actively engage and feel empowered to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes to make a positive difference to themselves, others and our community
- develop positive and genuine partnerships with our local community so we are partners in learning.

Values

Davis Creek Primary School's values are based on the acronym of C.A.R.E.

Curious, Agency, Respect and Excellence

We are **curious** learners and develop the skills to question and wonder to pursue learning that has real-world relevance and impact.

We demonstrate **agency** through developing life-long skills so that we are autonomous, resilient and motivated learners. We apply our learning in different contexts so that we can master skills to support us to be effective learners.

We demonstrate **respect** for ourselves, each other and our school environment, and understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on people and the environment around us.

We strive for **excellence**, which means taking risks as learners and learning from our mistakes, putting in our best effort and striving to achieve beyond our goals.

Behavioural Expectations

Davis Creek 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 and staff about student outcomes
- work with parents and staff to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- work collaboratively with parents and staff 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
- 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:

- 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.

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 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
- legal action

Inappropriate student behaviour will be managed in accordance with our school's *Student Engagement, Behaviour Management and Wellbeing 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.

Further Information and Resources

Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Communication with School Staff, Respect for School Staff

Review Cycle

This policy will be reviewed as part of the three-year review cycle or if guidelines change.

| Ratification Date | Review Date | Policy Number | Version Number | Date Produced |
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