

# STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office.

## 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

Hawthorn West 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 Hawthorn West 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, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on Compass on our school website, our staff induction handbook, 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

Hawthorn West Primary School's vision is 'To develop an inclusive community where a love of learning flourishes, and students feel empowered to contribute to our ever-changing world.'

## MISSION

Hawthorn West's mission is to provide students with the best possible foundation in life through a well-rounded education.

## 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

Hawthorn West Primary School's values are:

**Confident** - We communicate our opinions and advocate for ourselves and others. We embrace new opportunities with positivity and optimism. We have a growth mindset and approach problems with a 'solutions focus' and resilience.

**Curious** - We are interested in the world around us and its people. We ask thoughtful questions and think critically about information. We are committed to life-long learning and know how to research and inquire. We seek to learn the opinions of others and listen with an open-mind.

**Connected** - We feel a strong sense of belonging. We respect ourselves, others and the environment. We demonstrate kindness and care and seek opportunities to contribute to our community. We are inclusive of others and celebrate diversity.

**Pursuing Excellence** - We are committed to learning and achieving our personal best. We engage with a range of experiences and can work independently and with others. We are organised, self-motivated and reflect on our learning. We are self-aware and persevere when challenged.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Hawthorn West 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 and School Wide Behaviour Support – Behaviour Matrix.

**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](#).

## 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 transition and enrolment packs
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Included in policy documentation on Compass
- 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](#)

- [Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour](#)

Hawthorn West 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	March 2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	March 2029