

Dunkeld Consolidated School No 6215

Statement of Values and School Philosophy

We are a Child Safe School and we will protect all children at all times.

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

Dunkeld Consolidated 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 Dunkeld Consolidated 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, in our staff handbook, and in the school information book for new students and their families.

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

VISION

Dunkeld Consolidated School has a caring environment with an emphasis being placed on students reaching their full academic, physical, personal wellbeing and social potential. The School links with community to provide a depth of extracurricular activities and leadership opportunities for students and encourages outstanding performances in the areas of leadership, academic achievement, sport, performing arts, cultural and artistic achievement.

Dunkeld Consolidated School aims to give students a solid foundation, with a strong emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy. The curriculum and instruction aims to assist children to develop their potential to the fullest in all aspects of their school life and be ready to progress in their future endeavours.

Dunkeld Consolidated School'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

The Dunkeld Consolidated School motto is "Our Best Always". We acknowledge that a special relationship exists between the school and its community and that this is very important. Schooling is a shared responsibility and therefore we provide opportunities for parents to participate in school activities.

At Dunkeld Consolidated School, we commit ourselves to providing a safe and caring environment where children are able to achieve their personal best in all areas of the curriculum. We strive to be better at everything we do and we set genuinely challenging goals for ourselves, some of which require us to change our practices, learn new approaches to teaching and learning, and put the safety of children at the very centre of everything we do.

We value and encourage a culture of courageous learners who will take risks in the face of failure. We want children to be flexible and creative in their thinking. We want children to experience the sense of joy from succeeding when challenged with something difficult. We want them to have a purpose and sense of authenticity in what they do and become independent learners.

At Dunkeld Consolidated School, we want children to develop their ability to empathise with others and to understand how they fit into a complex social setting. We recognise that we need to equip children to be able to handle the current issues in their lives as well as to prepare them for the future. The school plays a major role in the social and emotional health of each child.

Our school follows a social and emotional education program called **'Play is the Way'**, which provides the foundation of our school values. The overriding objectives of **'Play is the Way'** are:

- To help the staff, students and parents of our school create a safe learning environment in which students train to be independent, self-regulating, self-motivated learners in persistent pursuit of their personal best and able to get along with each other.
- To help develop students of strong character and decency with social and emotional competencies to live and learn well.
- To foster empathetic students, considerate of themselves, each other and the world in which they live with sound and good reasons for the things they say and do.

Five key concepts are regularly visited and reinforced through classroom activities and games:

- **Treat Others as You Would Like Them to Treat You**
 - If someone is unlike you, seek to understand them. We value respect and tolerance.
- **Be Brave – Participate to Progress**
 - School is about stepping bravely into the unknown. The unknown is often uncomfortable. The braver you are the more you learn. We value courage and resilience.
- **Pursue Your Personal Best No Matter Who You Work With**
 - We do not come to school to be better than others. We come to school to better ourselves by being able to work with others. We value persistence and diligence.
- **Have Reasons For the Things You Say and Do**
 - If you do not know why you are doing something, then don't do it because it is most likely wrong. We value kindness and empathy.
- **It Takes Great Strength To Be Sensible**
 - We do the right thing because it is the best thing to do. We value honesty and self-control.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Dunkeld Consolidated 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
- ensure all parents/carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- 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 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
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community, in line with the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community 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
- 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:

- 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
- Made available in hard copy from school administration on request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)

Dunkeld Consolidated School policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 2022
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	September 2025