



# Fawkner Primary School

## Statement of Values & School Philosophy - 2021

### 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

Fawkner 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 Fawkner 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, our staff induction handbook and upon request at the school office.

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

Fawkner Primary School is committed to providing safe, secure, supportive, and high-quality learning and development opportunities for every student. Our students can only reach their full educational potential when they feel happy, healthy, and safe, and when there is a positive school culture that is fair and respectful to everybody. We aim to provide an education that helps children learn positive educational and life skills, where the children are challenged and encouraged to explore and learn.

### MISSION

Fawkner Primary School's mission is to provide a caring and dynamic learning environment, catering for Foundation to Grade 6 students, that supports academic and personal growth

for all students, equipping them with the skills, values, and behaviours necessary to become effective and informed members of local and global communities.

At Fawkner Primary school we continually strive to foster a healthy school culture in which high levels of achievement take place within a positive social environment through engagement and intrinsic motivation.

We believe:

- The welfare and education of the children is our number one priority.
- The key to developing a positive learning environment is to build positive relations between the children, school staff and parents.
- All children are capable learners and have the right to a quality education.
- We have a responsibility to help each child achieve to their maximum potential.
- Every child is different, and they each learn in different ways.
- We should cater for the learning styles, needs and abilities of every child.
- Education has a greater chance of succeeding when the children are motivated to learn from within themselves, rather than others telling them that they have to learn.

## OBJECTIVE

Fawkner Primary School's objective is to teach our students to be:

- Quality, responsible citizens, both now and in the future
- Able to survive and thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Motivated, focussed independent learners and thinkers.

We aim to provide each student with a range of learning experiences which facilitate:

- Achievement of academic, social, emotional, and physical potential.
- A stimulating learning environment where students are highly engaged and motivated.
- Inclusive, innovative, and challenging curriculum.
- Curriculum design which caters for individual learning needs.
- Engaging personalised learning experiences.
- Student goal setting.
- Explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy skills.
- Inquiry based learning.

## VALUES

Our school values encompass the Australian Government's nine values for Australian schools which are:

- Care & Compassion - Care for self and others
- Doing Your Best – Seek to accomplish something worth and admirable, try hard, pursue excellence

- Fair Go – Pursue and protect the common good where all people are treated fairly for a just society
- Freedom – Enjoy all the rights and privileges of Australian citizenship free from unnecessary interference or controls and stand up for the rights of others
- Honesty & Trustworthiness – Be honest, sincere and seek the truth.
- Integrity – Act in accordance with principals of moral and ethical conduct, ensure consistency between words and deeds
- Respect – Treat others with consideration and regard, respect another person’s point of view
- Responsibility – Be accountable for one’s own actions, resolve differences in constructive, non-violent, and peaceful ways, contribute to society and to civic life, take care of the environment
- Understanding, Tolerance & Inclusion – Be aware of others and their cultures, accept diversity within a democratic society, being included and including others

Fawkner Primary School’s values are:

### Respect, Kindness, Honesty, Responsibility and Effort

Our school values underpin everything that we do at Fawkner Primary School and are part of everyday life for the staff, students, and families.

We promote the school as a safe, fun learning environment where every child is valued, and all children are challenged to achieve their best. Our values uphold everything we do at Fawkner Primary, and help to maintain our integrity for being the best school members we can be.

Respect - We are respectful when we are polite, considerate, and thoughtful to all others regardless of gender, age, race, religion, or ability. We show respect to our friends, our family, teachers, and members of the community. We also try to earn the respect of others.

Honesty - When we are honest, we are being open and truthful in our actions, thoughts, and words. Honesty shows both self-respect and respect for others.

Kindness - When we are kind to others, we are practising how to be caring and helpful citizens of our community. Kindness is something that doesn’t cost us anything, yet it is a valuable trait to have and will help us to succeed in life. We are demonstrating positive life skills when we are being kind to others.

Responsibility - Being responsible school members means looking after ours and other people’s belongings and taking pride and care in our work, as well as our actions. The school has a comprehensive Personal Development Program that centres on children taking responsibility for their actions within the school context.

Effort - We always strive to achieve excellence in everything we do at school and at home in our personal lives. Being the best doesn’t always mean winning, it means that we have tried our hardest and put in 100% effort.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Fawkner 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:

- Work collaboratively to create a school environment where respectful and safe conduct is expected of everyone.
- Behave in a manner consistent with the standards of our profession and meet core responsibilities to provide inclusive, safe, and orderly environments.
- Plan, implement and monitor arrangements to ensure the care, safety, security, and general wellbeing of all students in attendance at the school is protected.
- 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 inclusive, safe, or orderly behaviour is not demonstrated and implement appropriate interventions and sanctions when required.
- Make known to parents the school's communication and complaints procedures.
- Ask any person who is acting in an offensive or disorderly 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.
- 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.
- 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 complaints processes if there are 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.
- 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 orderly learning environment for all students.
- Utilise the school's communications policy to communicate with the school.

## 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*).

Behaviours that are considered inappropriate on and adjacent to school grounds or in relation to school business and that do not uphold the principles of this Statement of Values include when a person:

- is rude, aggressive or harasses others
- sends rude, confronting, or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- is manipulative or threatening
- speaks in an aggressive tone, either in person or over the telephone
- makes sexist, racist, or derogatory comments
- inappropriately uses social media as a forum to raise concerns/make complaints against the school
- is physically intimidating, e.g. standing very close

Harassment, bullying, violence, aggression, threatening behaviour and unlawful discrimination are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at our school.

Principals are responsible for determining what constitutes reasonable and unreasonable behaviour.

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 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

School policies which support the implementation of our Vision, Mission and philosophy are published on our school website and are available upon request.

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
- Included as an annual reference in the school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy form upon request at the school office

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Student Wellbeing & Engagement Policy

Visitors Policy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2021
Approved by	School Council 17 November 2021
Next scheduled review date	October 2025