



MERRI RIVER SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Help for non-English speaker

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the Principal.

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

Merri River 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 Merri River 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 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

Merri River School challenges students to maximise their potential in an inclusive, engaging and diverse environment.

MISSION

Together We Achieve the Extraordinary.





































VALUES

Merri River School's values are:

- Be a Learner,
- Be Respectful,
- Be Safe,
- Be Responsible.



Merri River School Positive Expected Behaviours

	Always	Learning spaces	Outdoors	Community	Shared Areas	Using ICT	Toilets	School bus and cars
 Be a Learner	 Try your best. Try new things	 Ask for help. Do your best. Listen.	 Ask for help. Participate.	 Learn and follow community rules. Wait quietly.	 Wait quietly. help others. Listen.	 Use the right app or website. Ask for help	 Ask for help. Do your best	 Look out bus window. Use a quiet voice.
 Be Respectful	 Look at others when speaking. Use a quiet voice	 Use appropriate language. Greet others by their name.	 Respect other people's personal space. Include others	 Respect personal space. Respect other people's property.	 Wait your turn. Be kind to others	 Respect the ICT equipment. Work quietly.	 Wait your turn. Flush. Be private.	 Keeps hands and feet to self. Be kind to others.
 Be safe	 Use equipment safely. Share equipment	 Keep hands and feet to self. Ask for help.	 Wear a hat and sunscreen. Play safely with equipment.	 Stop, look, listen, wait. Stay with the group.	 Walk. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.	 Keep personal information private. Ask before taking photos.	 Wash hands. Back to the group/class after using toilet.	 Wear a seat belt. Stay in the seat.
 Be Responsible	 Share and take turns. Follow instructions	 Pack up equipment. Help others.	 Respect school property. Help put equipment away.	 Put rubbish in the bin. Use a quiet voice	 Keep areas tidy. Use a quiet voice.	 If worried tell an adult. Stop and think before posting.	 Follow instructions. Turn off taps.	 Enter and exit the bus/car safely. Keep the bus/car clean.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Merri River 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 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
- 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 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
- www.merrirs.vic.edu.au
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

[Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)

[Communication with School Staff Policy](#)

[Respect for School Staff Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	23/02/2022
Endorsed and Ratified	15 th March 2022 - School Council
Next scheduled review date	February 2026