

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Sarah Irving on 5774 7341.

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

Buxton 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 Buxton 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 enrolment packs.

To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and School 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 our values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

VISION

Buxton Primary School believes in developing the whole child and supporting them as they continue their educational journey. We encourage our students to achieve their best and support them with programs that develop them as individuals academically, socially and creatively. We value individuality and understand that each child has their own learning needs, their own aspirations and learning journey.

Our students are always at the centre of our thinking when we implement school policies, practices and when creating evidence-based teaching and learning programs. As a school community we work together to provide the opportunities and programs that will support their development as contributing members of our community.

Our mission statement and agreed school values support our students to develop a sense of self-worth, mutual respect for their peers, their teachers and their family, responsibility for their own actions and learning and perseverance when facing challenges.

We value our community and encourage parents, friends and community members to take an active role in our school. We develop relationships with other schools, childcare facilities and local businesses to foster an understanding in our students about the importance of community and citizenship.

We actively promote student leadership and encourage our students to lead school events and identify charitable causes that we can support. We encourage our students to have opinions and to share these with the school as a whole.

We meet regularly as a whole school to reinforce our school values and celebrate our students' achievements. We believe that each individual student can achieve great progress and we encourage our students to try their best in all they do.

MISSION

Buxton Primary School's mission is to provide a positive learning environment that places a high value on lifelong learning, through believing in and supporting students to achieve their full potential.

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

Buxton Primary School's values are belonging, respect and learning.

We foster belonging in our community through our commitment to equity, compassion and inclusion, celebrating the unique qualities of each person.

We model and demonstrate respect and take every opportunity to support the dignity, wellbeing and confidence of others.

We strive for learning growth, both academically and with our social and emotional wellbeing, trying our best, learning from mistakes and celebrating our progress.

Buxton 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, and Bullying Prevention Policy

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](#), and our Respect for School Staff Policy. Schools can share these expectations through use of [posters](#) available in over [30 translated languages](#).

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 demonstrated by school staff, parents, carers, students or members of our school community is not 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 is not 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 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 is treated with fairness and respect. In turn, we strive to create a school that is inclusive and safe, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.

COMMUNICATION

This policy is communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- 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](#)

Buxton Primary School policies:

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2026
Approved by	School Council
Consultation	
Next scheduled review date	July 2029