Statement of Values and School Philosophy Policy

Date Implemented	29/5/2023
Document Owner	Assistant Principal
Approved By	WYPS School Council
Approval Authority SC President	 29/5/2023
Approval by Principal or Nominee	 19/5/2023
Review Date	2026
References	• WYPS Student Wellbeing and Engagement • WYPS Inclusion and Diversity Policy • WYPS Bullying Policy • WYPS Visitor Policy

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

Woori Yallock 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 Woori Yallock 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/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

Woori Yallock Primary School's vision is that through a comprehensive curriculum, personalised learning, exceptional teaching and high expectations we ensure that when students graduate, all opportunities in life will be open to them. This will be provided in a safe and supportive environment that promotes life long learning.

MISSION

Woori Yallock Primary School's mission is to enable all learners' access to learning through the provision of:-

- differentiated, in-depth and cohesive learning programs aligned to year level content and achievement standards informed by the Victorian Curriculum
- highly effective teachers, focused on improving student outcomes, through their commitment to ongoing professional development, quality teaching, evidence based practices, coaching, mentoring and collaboration
- a quality inclusive learning environment that is responsive to student voice
- enriching, engaging resources that allow for learning of global issues
- opportunities for community and parents to participate in learning and decision making partnerships.

OBJECTIVE

Woori Yallock Primary School's objective is to provide an inclusive, rigorous learning environment that challenges and engages our students to grow as passionate learners. The school seeks to develop motivated, creative and independent learners who demonstrate strong social values and whose leadership, resilience and self-esteem is evident when interacting with the community.

The school provides a comprehensive curriculum with a strong focus on literacy and numeracy.

VALUES

Woori Yallock Primary School's values are High Expectations and Respect.

> *We respect ourselves, our school and each another, and understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people around us.*
>
> *We have high expectations of ourselves and others. We strive for excellence, which means trying our hardest and doing our best.*

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Woori Yallock 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:

- 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 in the following forms but not limited to: personally, electronically, using social media and in the wider community.
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community in the following forms but not limited to: personally, electronically, using social media and in the wider 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 in the following forms but not limited to: personally, electronically, using social media and in the wider 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 in the following forms but not limited to: personally, electronically, using social media and in the wider 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, social media 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 according with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy* and *Bullying 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.

School Governance (Democratic Principles)

Source of Obligation

The Victorian Registration Standards (sch 4 cl 1 and sch 8 cl 1) (CECV Guidelines ref 1.1 and 8.1) require that the programs of, and teaching at Woori Yallock Primary School must support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy.

These include a commitment to:

- elected government; and
- the rule of law; and
- equal rights for all before the law; and
- freedom of religion; and
- freedom of speech and association; and
- the values of openness and tolerance.

As stated in the Regs, the requirements of the commitment above are not intended to affect the rights accorded to, or the compliance with any obligation imposed on, the school under the enactment of the State or of the Commonwealth.

Statement of Democratic Principles

Woori Yallock Primary School is committed to the principles of a liberal democracy.

- We believe in an accountable, democratically elected government.
- We respect and observe the rule of law, and believe that no person is above the law.
- We believe in equal rights for all before the law, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender or other attributes.
- We believe not only in the freedom of religion, but also the need to practice tolerance and understanding of others' beliefs.
- We believe in the value of freedom of speech and freedom of association, but also acknowledge that we have the responsibility not to abuse this freedom.
- We believe in the values of openness and tolerance, and value and respect all members of the school community regardless of background.

Explanation of How the School Communicates the Statement

This Statement of Democratic Principles is communicated to staff, students, parents and guardians and the school community.

This Statement is published:

- In the staff online portal (Compass)
- In the Student Information on Cases21 (accessible to the office)
- On the Woori Yallock Primary School website
- In the Curriculum units

In addition:

- Curriculum documents show that all students at the school undertake studies in the three strands of the Civics and Citizenship domain of the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

Implementation

Woori Yallock Primary School has set up a series of compliance tasks to ensure that key obligations under the Victorian Registration Standards and Guidelines are managed effectively

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 staff handbook/manual
- Included as annual reference in school newsletters
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request