



Burwood Heights Primary School Statement of Values and School Philosophy

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

Burwood Heights 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 Burwood Heights 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, in our staff manuals, in enrolment packs and available at the school office on request.

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

The Burwood Heights Primary School vision describes the objectives of our school community. Our school is committed to preparing our students to develop the knowledge and skills that will help them become life-long learners who are successful and happy individuals who participate fully in and contribute to our community and the world around us.

MISSION

Burwood Heights Primary School is committed to providing high-quality education, care and safety to all students, to prepare them to become active, engaged and responsible citizens of the local and global community. The school aims to prepare students to contend with a world in which creativity, cooperative work, connectedness and adaptability are key features.

OBJECTIVE

Burwood Heights Primary School's objective is to ensure all students leave our school with a practical understanding of the curriculum and the ability to apply their skills and knowledge to make a positive contribution to the community (local, national and global).

VALUES

At Burwood Heights Primary School we strive to provide a caring and challenging learning and teaching environment that equips students with social, personal and thinking skills to become valued members of the school and the wider community. **RESPECT, SENSITIVITY, HONESTY, RESPONSIBILITY AND ACHIEVEMENT** are the core values that underpin the vision of the school.

Respect means worthy conduct and thoughts

Respect each other and the environment by listening to others, using manners, helping look after property and the environment and honouring rules of family and school.

Sensitivity means empathetic understanding

Show sensitivity by treating others with care, compassion and kindness. Try to understand other people's views and feelings by being supportive and caring towards them. Listen to others and accept and value differences.

Honesty means acting ethically and with integrity at all times

Know and do what is right. Take responsibility for your actions, present original work and ideas and tell the truth.

Responsibility means being accountable

Set a good example in all areas of your life. Be punctual, complete tasks and treat others as you would like to be treated.

Achievement means accomplishing

Set and reach goals to improve your skills and knowledge. Take pride in your work and feel good about yourself.

The Learner Profile

The Learner Profile represents ten attributes valued by Burwood Heights Primary School. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities helping to create a better and more peaceful world.

As learners, we strive to be:

- **Inquirers**- we nurture our curiosity. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning.
- **Knowledgeable**- we develop and explore knowledge across a range of discipline.
- **Thinkers**- we use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse. We use initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.
- **Communicators**- we express ourselves confidently and creatively in many ways.
- **Principled**- we act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice with respect and dignity.
- **Open-Minded**- we critically appreciate our own cultures as well as the values and traditions of others.
- **Caring**- we show empathy, compassion and respect.
- **Risk-takers**- we approach uncertainty with forethought and determination.
- **Balanced**- we understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives- intellectual, physical and emotional, to achieve well-being for ourselves.
- **Reflective**- we thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Burwood Heights 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
- 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 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 handbook/manual
- Included in enrolment packs
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

[*Student Wellbeing and Engagement*](#) -

https://www.burwoodhps.vic.edu.au/uploaded_files/media/student_wellbeing_and_engagement_policy.pdf

[*Respect for School and Kindergarten Staff*](#) -

https://www.burwoodhps.vic.edu.au/uploaded_files/media/respect_for_school_and_kindergarten_staff_policy_2020.pdf

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	5 th October 2021
Approved by School Council	18 th October 2021
Next scheduled review date	5 th October 2025