



Foster Primary School

Statement of Values and School Philosophy



HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Foster Primary School on 03 5682 2370 or foster.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

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

Foster 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 Foster 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.

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

Foster Primary School We believe that everyone can learn to learn. Resilience, reciprocity, resourcefulness and reflectiveness (*Guy Claxton*) are promoted and we always try our best! Our school is a Be You school. We build positive relationships and social responsibility in an inclusive, safe and caring environment, using school wide positive behaviours to support our students in making good choices. We have strong pastoral care. We foster independence, promote inclusivity and embrace individuality.

We have high expectations of our students. English and Mathematics are central to the curriculum, underpinned by an emphasis on developing a Growth Mindset (*Carol Dweck*). We offer a rich variety of opportunities and experiences. Our curriculum and pedagogical practice is based on educational research and evidence. Our school recognises the individuality of student approaches to learning and cognitive styles across all areas of the curriculum both within the classroom and specialist programs.

Mission

Foster Primary School is committed to developing student abilities and interests and providing learning experiences that cater for individual differences. Sport, Music and Art are popular in the wider school community and students are encouraged to participate. Participation in government initiatives has raised the profile of student health and wellbeing; and sustainability of the environment. The school became a Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden School in 2007 and this program continues to thrive and flourish in our school with the support of volunteers. Our students are given opportunities to participate in a variety of extra curricula activities and programs such as Camps, Excursions, Incursions and Interschool Sports.

Staff at our school work collaboratively with one another through Professional Learning Communities and also with staff from other schools in our Corner Inlet Learning Alliance in order to continually strive to be the best we can be, striving for excellence in teaching and learning by developing teacher capacity in order to improve student outcomes. Student voice, through a wide variety of leadership roles is encouraged and promoted throughout the school.

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

Foster Primary School's values are: Be a learner, Be respectful, Be caring and Be safe

Behavioural expectations

Foster Primary School acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture.

Staff have a range of expectations around behaviour and 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 Code of Conduct](#).

Students are supported by school staff to meet expected standards of behaviour as outlined in our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy.

Information about the expectations on parents and carers to ensure schools remain respectful and inclusive places is outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#).

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:

- 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 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 induction processes
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community](#)
- [Respectful Workplaces](#)
- [Parent Complaints](#)
- [Work-Related Violence in Schools](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	December 2022
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	Before December 2023