



Dandenong West Primary School

32 Birdwood Avenue, Dandenong, 3175

dandenong.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

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

Dandenong West 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 Dandenong West 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 at the school office, on our school website and in our staff induction handbook.

To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our school community, we

- display posters and banners that promote our vision and values throughout the school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide (HEART) awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

VISION

Dandenong West Primary School's vision is to inspire a passion for learning that motivates us to live life with enthusiasm and a positive attitude.

MISSION

Dandenong West Primary School's mission is to create a challenging learning environment that encourages high expectations for success through developmentally appropriate instruction. Our school promotes a safe, orderly, caring, and supportive environment built on establishing positive relationships between all members of our school community. We strive to have our parents, teachers, and community members actively involved in our students' learning.

School council approved this policy on 18/02/19



Dandenong West Primary School

32 Birdwood Avenue, Dandenong, 3175

dandenong.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

OBJECTIVE

Dandenong West Primary School has developed a set of Guiding Principles that describe our objectives.

At Dandenong West our Staff are committed to **Learning** through:

- A willingness to embrace strategies that benefit the future needs of our students
- Having high expectations for our students and ourselves to inspire life-long learning
- Creating a safe and supportive environment by forming achievable goals, designing challenging authentic tasks and celebrating success
- Working collaboratively to provide an evidence-based, reflective and responsive curriculum that is relevant to every student.

At Dandenong West our Staff are committed to **Community** through:

- Building inclusive classroom practices; where children achieve their best
- Fostering the Heart Values within and across our culturally-diverse school
- Accepting and celebrating cultural differences
- Connecting with our community.

At Dandenong West our Staff are committed to **Wellbeing** through:

- Developing positive relationships across the school and local community
- Encouraging participation and enjoyment in a range of experiences
- Developing social and emotional capabilities
- Providing a range of specialised support services to the school community
- Ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for our students.

VALUES

Dandenong West Primary School's values are Honesty, Empathy, positive Attitude, Respect and Tolerance. They are known by the acronym HEART.

The Dandenong West school rules are based on our HEART Values; they are:

H - At Dandenong West we are Honest

E - At Dandenong West we look after each other and the Environment

A - At Dandenong West we all try to do our best

R - At Dandenong West we show respect for everyone and every thing

T - At Dandenong West we accept that everyone is entitled to their own ideas

School council approved this policy on 18/02/19



Dandenong West Primary School

32 Birdwood Avenue, Dandenong, 3175

dandenong.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Dandenong West 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
- embed a culturally responsive approach throughout the school
- 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, staff and parents consistent with the standards of our profession
- work collaboratively with all staff to maintain a relentless focus on student growth
- 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

School council approved this policy on 18/02/19



Dandenong West Primary School

32 Birdwood Avenue, Dandenong, 3175

dandenong.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

- 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

School council approved this policy on 18/02/19



Dandenong West Primary School

32 Birdwood Avenue, Dandenong, 3175

dandenong.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

- 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on 4/2/19 and was approved 22/2/19

It is scheduled for review in 02/21