

Statement of Values and School Philosophy



HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Queenscliff Primary School on 03 5258 1696 or queenscliff.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

Queenscliff 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 Queenscliff 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, student diary 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.

1. Vision

Queenscliff Primary School provides a safe and happy learning environment, in which children are able to achieve their potential. It is a school where trust, respect and valuing others are fundamental beliefs. Queenscliff Primary School's vision is 'learning for the future'.

2. Mission

Queenscliff Primary School's mission is to provide a stimulating, inclusive and safe learning environment where every student can thrive academically, socially and emotionally. We aim to equip our students with the necessary skills, knowledge and character traits to be critical and creative thinkers, resilient and empathetic individuals and globally minded citizens who want to make a positive difference to others, the environment and the world around them. We aim to inspire curiosity, encourage independent thinking and instill a lifelong love of learning.

Our school's values of integrity, optimism, gratitude and empathy are embedded into our curriculum and wellbeing programs to build resilience, compassion and understanding in our graduates. At Queenscliff Primary School we offer a comprehensive curriculum focused on developing and consolidating literacy and numeracy skills. Students engage in a diverse range of specialist subjects to nurture the discovery of their individual strengths and interests. Students will engage in Physical Education, Visual Arts, First Nations, Science/STEM and Performing Arts as part of our specialist curriculum programs and whole school events. We firmly believe in the importance of developing well-rounded individuals who are not only academically proficient but also possess strong interpersonal skills, a care for their environment, respect for the First Nations People and strong connection to the Queenscliff community.

Queenscliff Primary School is committed to educational excellence and providing children with the opportunity to learn to the best of their ability.

3. 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.

4. Values

Queenscliff Primary School's values are Empathy, Integrity, Gratitude and Optimism.

- Integrity:** *A commitment to honesty and moral principles*
- Optimism:** *The belief that, despite challenges, the future holds opportunities and positive outcomes*
- Empathy:** *An ability to understand and share the feelings of others*
- Gratitude:** *The quality of being thankful and readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness to others*

Pillars

Queenscliff Primary School has five key pillars that underpin our School's values. The five pillars have been developed in accordance with the School Wide Positive Behaviour framework, fostering positive, respectful and safe interactions between students, staff, parents and community members. The pillars have been developed to make the School's Values tangible for students and to foster a common language across staff, students and parents to foster a positive, supportive and inclusive learning environment for all. The school pillars feature on the School's Behaviour Matrix and displayed in all classrooms. Teachers and school staff regularly refer to the pillars to promote positive, respectful interactions and engagement in learning.

- Show Respect:** *Always treat others, school property and the environment with care and respect.*
- Right To Learn:** *Every student has a right to learn and thrive in a supportive learning environment.*
- Safe Spaces:** *Create a learning environment that is safe for all students to engage in learning and play.*
- Personal Best:** *Apply effort and persistence to achieve a personal best in all learning tasks and opportunities.*
- Value the Opportunity:** *Show gratitude, optimism and thankfulness for the learning experiences and opportunities provided by our School.*

5. Behavioural expectations

Queenscliff 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, Inclusion and Diversity 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](#) and our Respect for School Staff Policy.

Queenscliff 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
- ensure all parents/carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the Department's Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy
- 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, 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
- 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.

6. 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
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Made available in hard copy from the General Office 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 2024
Approved by	School Council – 11/12/2024
Next scheduled review date	Before December 2028