Ararat West Primary School

Your child’s future begins here

#  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**

At Ararat West Primary School, we are committed to building a learning community where all students feel socially, emotionally and physically safe. The school behaviours of Respect, Resilience and Aspiring are supported by a behaviour matrix and are explicitly taught as a part of the curriculum. The matrix provides consistent language, clear expectations that are made visible to all students. The support of parents, teachers and children is needed to ensure the positive climate is created. The School Wide Positive Behaviour (SWPB) is imbedded in everything we do at Ararat West Primary School making sure we have a culture that does not tolerate bullying or harassment while also providing an effective framework within restorative practices occur.

The programs and teaching at Ararat 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 on our school website .

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**

Ararat West Primary School provides a safe and happy learning environment, in which children are able to achieve their potential. It is a school where respect, resilience and aspiring are fundamental beliefs.

**Mission**

Developing in our children an interest in learning and desire to be their best; utilising their skills and attributes to enable them to reach their full potential in society.

**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**

Ararat West Primary School’s values are Respectful, Resilience and Aspiring .

**We are Respectful:**

We Respect our self, others, the school and the community.

**We are Resilient:**

We keep trying and work through challenges.

**We are Aspiring:**

We always do our best and encourage others with positive behaviours.

**Behavioural expectations**

Ararat West 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](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.vit.vic.edu.au%2F__data%2Fassets%2Fpdf_file%2F0018%2F35604%2FCode-of-Conduct-2016.pdf&data=04%7C01%7CDanica.Murfett%40education.vic.gov.au%7Cb43d1afd7ebb473c81e508d981873340%7Cd96cb3371a8744cfb69b3cec334a4c1f%7C0%7C0%7C637683239979128787%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=heJJ%2BZ8GEARC17dMHn1KSHr7h71dVWpSqPJTehqiq0c%3D&reserved=0).

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.

Ararat 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
* 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, in line with the Department’s Respectful Behaviours 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.

**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
* Included as annual reference in the school newsletter
* Made available at the office as a hard copy on 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](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/Respectful-Behaviours-within-the-School-Community-Policy.aspx)
* [Respectful Workplaces](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/respectful-workplaces/overview)
* [Parent Complaints](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/complaints/policy)
* [Work-Related Violence in Schools](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/work-related-violence-schools/policy)

***EVALUATION***

* This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s THREE YEAR review cycle.

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| ***Ratified by School Council Date:*** ***Signed Principal: Principal:*** ***School Council President:*** ***Review Date:*** | September 12, 2023Mr Terry KeilarMr Brett Murphy |