

# **SURFSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL STATEMENT OF VALUES PROMOTING HEALTHY, SAFE AND RESPECTFUL SCHOOL COMMUNITIES**



## **1. 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.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

**Surfside Primary School is a Child Safe school and complies with the Child Safe Standards. Our school is fully committed to protecting the safety of children and to maintaining a respectful and safe school community. We support and respect all children, staff, parents, guardians and volunteers.**

**Discrimination, sexual and other forms of harassment, bullying, violence, aggression and threatening behaviour are unacceptable and will not be tolerated in this school.**

**We take a zero tolerance approach to all forms of child abuse.**

This statement outlines the expectations for how all members of a school community: principals, teachers, parents, students and visitors are expected to behave. It respects the diversity of individuals in our school community and addresses the shared responsibilities of all members in building safe and respectful school communities.

Surfside Primary School recognises the importance of the partnership between schools and parents to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, ensuring inclusive, safe and orderly environments for children and young people.

Every person involved in Surfside Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

The programs and teaching at Surfside 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 Google drive and made available to new families.

### 3. MISSION, VISIONS AND VALUES



#### OUR VISION

To inspire our students to be creative, innovative and emotionally equipped to thrive

#### OUR SCHOOL VALUES

The school upholds the values of **Respect, Honesty, Teamwork** and **Achievement**.

##### Respect

- We respect ourselves, each other and our environment.
- We are safe, fair and friendly.
- We value the diversity of individuals in our school community.

##### Teamwork

- We work, learn and play together
- We communicate effectively.
- We work in partnership with students, teachers and families to provide the best opportunities for everyone.

##### Honesty

- We speak truthfully, expect the truth and reflect on our actions.
- We give constructive and positive feedback in a respectful manner.

##### Achievement

- We set goals, work hard, stick to the task and celebrate our accomplishments.
- We work together to achieve the best result.
- We focus on being persistent, organised, resilient, confident and getting along with others.

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.

#### **4. RESPONSIBILITIES**

Surfside 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.

**WE ACTIVELY DEMONSTRATE OUR SCHOOL VALUES OF RESPECT, HONESTY, TEAMWORK AND ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:**

##### **4.1 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
- Consider the diversity of all children, including (but not limited to) the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, and children who are vulnerable, when implementing the Child Safe Standards
- Ensure that child safety is a regular agenda item at school leadership meetings and staff meetings
- Encourage and enable staff professional learning and training to build deeper understandings of child safety and prevention of abuse
- Ensure that no one is prohibited or discouraged from reporting an allegation of child abuse to a person external to the school or from making records of any allegation.
- Operate in accordance with Surfside Primary School's Code of conduct and behave in a manner that supports the school's values of respect, honesty, teamwork and achievement.
- Identify and support students who are or may be at risk.
- Ask any person who is acting in an offensive or disorderly way to leave the school grounds.

##### **4.2 AS STAFF (INCLUDING NON-TEACHING 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.
- Complete the [Protecting Children – Mandatory reporting and other obligations](#) online module every Read the school's Child Safety Code of Conduct on induction, and maintain familiarity with that document
- Read the school's Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations (including Mandatory Reporting) Policy and Procedures on induction, and maintain familiarity with that document
- Read the school's Child Safety Policy (this document) on induction, and maintain familiarity with that document.
- Operate in accordance with Surfside Primary School's Code of conduct.
- Behave in a manner that supports the school's values of respect, honesty, teamwork and achievement.

#### **4.3 AS SCHOOL COUNCILLORS, WE WILL:**

- Ensure that child safety is a regular agenda item at school council meetings
- Consider the diversity of all children, including (but not limited to) the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, and children who are vulnerable, when making decisions regarding the Child Safe Standards
- Undertake annual guidance and training on child safety, such as the [Child Safe Standards School Council Training PowerPoint](#).
- Approve the Child Safety Code of Conduct to the extent that it applies to school council employees and members, and if updated, note the new document in its school council meeting minutes
- When hiring employees, ensure that selection, supervision and management practices are child safe (unless delegated to the principal).

#### **4.4 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.
- Operate in accordance with Surfside Primary School's Code of conduct.
- Behave in a manner that supports the school's values of respect, honesty, teamwork and achievement.

#### **4.5 WE EXPECT OUR STUDENTS TO:**

- Behave in a manner that supports the school's values of respect, honesty, teamwork and achievement.

- Model positive behaviour to other students.
- Comply with and model school values.
- Behave in a safe and responsible manner.
- Respect themselves, 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 their educational opportunities.
- Adhere to school rules and class learning agreements.

#### **4.6 WE EXPECT COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO:**

- Operate in accordance with Surfside Primary School's Code of conduct.
- Behave in a manner that supports the school's values of respect, honesty, teamwork and achievement.
- Model positive behaviour to the school community.
- Treat other members of the school community with respect.
- Support school staff to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment for all students.
- Utilise the school's communications policy and processes to communicate with the school.

#### **4.7 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING WILL:**

- Operate in accordance with Surfside Primary School's Code of conduct.
- Provide support and advice to principals to equip them to manage and respond to challenging behaviour of students, parents and staff.
- Provide practical guidance and resources to support schools to manage and respond to challenging behaviour of students, parents and staff.
- Provide practical guidance and resources to support schools in responding to and preventing bullying and promoting cyber-safety and wellbeing.
- Provide access to evidence based resources and strategies to increase student safety, wellbeing and engagement.
- Provide schools with practical and legal support as required.
- Provide parents with practical guidance and resources to resolve conflicts with the school.

### **5. 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.

**Making this Statement of Values and the school's expectations clear will ensure all members of the community understand the shared responsibility for maintaining respectful, safe and orderly school environments that supports student learning and student safety.**

**By agreeing to meet specified standards of positive behaviour, everyone in our school community can be assured that they will be treated with fairness and respect. In turn, this will help to create a school that is safe and orderly, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.**

**Upon enrolment of a child, all parents will be informed of the Statement of Values for Surfside Primary School.**

## **6. REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed annually. Last updated in June 2021 and due for review as a component of Child safe standards in February 2022.