

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Warragul & District Specialist School on 56231385.

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

Warragul & District Specialist 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 Warragul & District Specialist 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 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 our school values
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- align staff expectation to school values
- explicitly teach classroom lessons and activities to teach our students about the school values
- implement a whole-school approach to Positive Behaviour Support for student engagement and learning (PBS)

- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

VISION

At Warragul & District Specialist School we **Learn** in a **Safe** and **Respectful** environment which celebrates difference.

MISSION

Warragul & District Specialist School believes that all students can and will learn, and grow in self-esteem, through fostering a climate of care, dignity and respect, using consistent behaviour management strategies, deliberate positive reinforcement, and recognition of achievement.


Warragul & District Specialist School promotes a curriculum that develops skills that its graduates will utilize as adults. Warragul & District Specialist School believes that graduates should be actively involved in work/further education, participate in managing their own homes, and are active participants in their own local community.

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


Warragul & District Specialist School values are Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a Learner. Our matrix below provides an explanation of how these values are implemented throughout the school.



WDS Student Behaviour Matrix




	Always, everywhere	Inside	Outside	Buses/ Public	Community Access	Technology
 Be Safe	We listen We follow instructions We keep our hands and feet to ourselves	We use equipment the right way We move carefully	We walk away from trouble We stay in the yard We use equipment the right way We wear hats in Term 1 and 4 to be Sun Smart	We wear a seatbelt We stay in our seat	We stay with our group We follow the road rules We stay on the path	We keep our personal information to ourselves We tell someone if we are unsure
 Be Respectful	We speak politely We try our best We ask for help	We use an inside voice We understand and accept our differences	We share the space We look after our garden and environment We understand and accept our differences	We make space for others We follow the rules	We are our best selves We understand and accept differences	We put our phone in the safe We treat others online how we would like to be treated
 Be a Learner	We look after property and equipment We make space for others	We have a go at class activities We keep trying	We are friendly We take turns We support and encourage others	We ask questions We know the rules We look at what is around us	We look at what is around us We ask questions We try new things	We use devices for educational purposes




BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Warragul & District Specialist 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 students at our school.

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](#) and Staff Behaviour Matrix.



WDSS Staff School Values Matrix



	Always, everywhere	Inside	Yard Duty	Out & About	Meetings
Be Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are prepared We are punctual We are professional We follow Team Teach practices We keep up to date with student info: snapshots, behaviour plans, wellbeing information We actively supervise (scan, move, engage, interact) We explicitly teach values / expectations & acknowledge positive behaviours (SW-FBS) We care for our equipment & environment We reflect on our practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We use POSITIVE & appropriate language We are approachable, supportive & inclusive We practice confidentiality We are aware of school policies & procedures. We understand our roles & responsibilities We keep up with school information (emails & minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We listen to, value & promote student voice & independence We use phones appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We move carefully (quiet/calm) We maintain a tidy/ orderly workplace We tune into & act on announcements We lock doors We complete SENTRAL rolls by 9.30am. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We actively supervise –scan, move, interact We wear our hats in Term 1/4 & vests all year We are punctual to our duty We check the yard duty roster We handover between duties We use phones for appropriate reasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We actively supervise We complete all policy requirements prior to outing We have & follow a risk management plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We feel safe to speak up and say what we think
Be Respectful		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are aware of classroom learning in progress We provide & facilitate individualised engaging programs for all students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are punctual We handover between duties We use PBS strategies when dealing with behaviours We actively supervise We engage with all students to build rapport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We model appropriate behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are punctual, prepared & active participants We give notification to other staff for relevant meetings (therapy – SSG’s) We attend meetings or provide an apology We support decisions once made We only use laptops when necessary We have phones on silent
Be a Learner		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We provide engaging class activities We interact with all students We know the curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We build rapport & interact with students We support our colleagues when dealing with difficult behaviours We communicate at handover We model safe play & social skills We teach students how 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We plan for purposeful student engagement on community access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We sit with people who bring out our best professional selves We attend all scheduled meetings We are active participants (laptops only when needed, phones on silent) We are solution focussed We listen to the student/ family voice

Celebrating Difference

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, Bullying Prevention Policy and Student Behaviour Matrix

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.

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 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:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff handbook
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

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

Warragul & District Specialist School policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Complaints Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March, 2022
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	March, 2026