



Metung Primary School

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

METUNG PRIMARY SCHOOL 'THE VILLAGE SCHOOL'

"It takes a village to educate a child"

Hillary Clinton 1994

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our school community and explain the vision and objectives of our school.

POLICY

Metung 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 Metung 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, from the general office and in our enrolment/transition packs.

VISION

Metung Primary School aims to maximise the potential of its students both as individuals and within the community through nurturing a safe and stimulating environment where high expectations, teamwork, academic rigour and life-long learning are emphasised and highly valued through the belief that "It takes a Village to Educate a Child"

The core focus of the school is to provide opportunities for all students to achieve academic excellence, develop to their individual potential, become self-motivated learners, develop a sense of pride in their work and themselves and become active members of the community. Also, the school aims to develop an atmosphere in which children care for and respect themselves, other people and their environment.



Metung Primary School

The school aims to achieve its vision through the implementation and unrelenting focus on the school values of:

VALUES

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Be the best you can be: academically, socially and emotionally.

Be brave.

Take pride in yourself.

MAKE GOOD CHOICES

Be honest.

Be aware of how your actions affect others.

OWN YOUR OWN BEHAVIOUR

Admit to and accept your behaviour.

Make your own decisions.

Respect yourself and others.

ACCEPT OTHERS AS THEY ARE

Treat everyone equally.

Include others.

Be aware of others' needs.

Metung Primary school aims to provide a learning environment that focuses on lifelong learning and the development of the individual learner. The provision of a safe, secure, challenging and stimulating learning environment will be created through the interactions of the "Metung Village School" environment. The school is committed to delivering high quality instruction through innovative practices that engage the individual and develop the individual learner. There is an expectation that students will take ownership for their own learning and take responsibility for building positive relationships in the school environment.

Learning will be through participation in engaging, meaningful curriculum incorporating both broad curriculum and relevant life skills. It will promote high-order questions, problem solving and active participation.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Metung 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.



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As principal I 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
- 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.



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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.

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



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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.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in **August 2018** and is scheduled for review in **2022**.