



## 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

Nepean 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 Nepean 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 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.

### VISION

Nepean School's vision is to provide an innovative, inclusive and supportive environment for students with physical disabilities and complex health needs.

### MISSION

Nepean School's mission is to aim to instil confidence and resilience in students to support them in accessing rewarding life experiences and a meaningful place in society

### OBJECTIVE

Nepean School's objective is to work with students towards their individualised learning goals to realise their potential.

School council approved this policy on **[insert date]**.

## VALUES

Nepean School's values are

### *Our Values*

- *Excellence and best practice in learning and teaching*
- *A sense of belonging through social connectedness*
- *Creating and celebrating success together*
- *Teamwork and perseverance*
- *Respect*
- *Communication and empowerment*
- *Independence and a strong sense of self*
- *Equity*
- *Right to learn, play & communicate in a safe environment*

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

### Shared Expectations

Nepean School has developed shared expectations to ensure that the learning, safety and rights of **all are respected**. The expectations are intended to be **positive** in that they set out what are expected and appropriate behaviours for our school community. Our shared expectations are intended to **support individual students and families** that come from diverse of backgrounds, communities and experiences.

### Expectations of students

- Join in at school in a positive way and strive for personal best
- Treat classmates/teachers with respect and dignity
- Value school resources
- Support classmates
- Play and work safely at all times
- Follow our school rules
- Demonstrate our school values

### Expectations of Teachers/Therapists

- Understand the individual needs of students and accommodate those needs through implementing a range of strategies
- Ensure each student has an equal opportunity to participate
- Listen to students and value their contributions
- Use each student's individual communication system
- Enable access to learning
- Create engaging and motivating learning opportunities and environments for students
- Ensure students are aware of and understand our school values and rules
- Ensure students are supported to engage in positive behaviour through explicit teaching
- Provide a wide range of resources to engage students

School council approved this policy on **[insert date]**.

- Collaborate with parents to support their child's learning
- Undertake Professional Learning activities
- Model our school values

### **Expectations of Principal**

- Provide leadership
- Ensure staff and students have the resources and equipment to assist them in the process of teaching and learning
- Make sure there is a quality Professional Learning Program in place for staff
- Create a whole culture inclusive of staff, students, families and the wider community

### **Expectations of Education Support Staff**

- Facilitate student learning under the guidance of teachers and therapists
- Understand the individual needs of students and accommodate those needs
- Listen to students and value their contributions
- Be a part of the school's professional learning program
- Maintain confidentiality
- Model our school values
- Look after the cleanliness and order of classroom environments

### **Expectations of Parents/Carers**

- Support for their children attending the school
- Promote positive educational outcomes for their children
- Ensure their children are attending school whenever possible, including notifying when their child is absent, as this is a legal requirement
- Communicate clearly with the school about the needs of their children
- Cooperate with requests from the school

### **Expectations of Community members**

- Promote positive educational outcomes for all students
- 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 process 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.

School council approved this policy on **[insert date]**.

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 accordance 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.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

Related policy *Student Wellbeing and Engagement*

## **REVIEW CYCLE**

This policy was last updated on 26/10/2018 and is scheduled for review in 10/2020.

School council approved this policy on [insert date].