

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

Newport Gardens 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 Newport Gardens 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
- review our School-wide Positive Behaviour Support Matrix on an annual basis with teacher, parent, and student input by way of our values.

VISION

Newport Gardens Primary Schools vision is: **'Nurturing Our Future'**.

This vision is the underlying premise upon which all teaching and learning at our school are based. We do this by ensuring the needs of the students academically, socially, and emotionally, are the basis of all our energies. We grow the voice, agency, and development of all children through intentional practices and support.



The core disciplines of literacy, numeracy, science, and ICT whilst integrating other disciplines through an inquiry-based model of education. At Newport Gardens we strive to develop independent thinkers and creative problem solvers. Our students develop strong intra and inter-personal skills to communicate face to face, electronically or virtually by knowing themselves well and by understanding others. At Newport Gardens Primary School, we are very committed to understanding our environment and reducing the negative impact we have upon it on by thinking globally and acting locally.

We support our community to **GROW** as a people, **IMPROVE** as learners and **INCLUDE** others in all opportunities.

MISSION

Newport Gardens Primary School mission is to facilitate the development of compassionate, autonomous, agentic, and self-motivated learners who are highly literate and numerate and are equipped to reflect on, appraise and contribute to the world in which they live.

We provide a high-quality, comprehensive, and meaningful education for all members of our learning community to prepare them to live in, and contribute to, the immediate and broader community.

OBJECTIVE

Newport Gardens Primary School's objective is to provide a high-quality, inclusive, meaningful education for all members of our learning community to prepare them to live in and contribute to their community and the world beyond.

VALUES

Newport Gardens Primary School's values are:

- Aspire to Improve
- Aspire to Include
- Aspire to Grow

Aspire to Improve				
	At our school we:	In our shared spaces we:	In our learning community we:	When outside we:
Aspire to Improve	Strive to improve our school community by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › sharing, recognising and celebrating achievements › continually building a culture of excellence › being positive and proactive 	Work collaboratively to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › reach our full potential › achieve excellence › motivate and inspire 	Challenge ourselves and others to achieve our best by being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › persistent › a reflective learner › accountable to myself and others 	Take pride in our school, respect our facilities and each other by being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › considerate › cooperative › responsible
Aspire to Include				
	At our school we:	In our shared spaces we:	In our learning community we:	When outside we:
Aspire to Include	Respect people and property by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › being courteous › accepting and valuing diversity › offering support in a helpful way › celebrating achievements › taking pride in our school and its community 	Encourage shared ownership and responsibility by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › doing our part to nurture our environment › taking ownership to improve our actions and behaviours 	Strive to understand and improve ourselves and others by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › listening to others › valuing people's opinions › recognising each other's strengths and areas for improvement › sharing our opinion in a polite manner › striving to achieve common goals 	Play safely, respect others and always look to improve by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › working together › cooperating › compromising
Aspire to Grow				
	At our school we:	In our shared spaces we:	In our learning community we:	When outside we:
Aspire to Grow	Are responsible members of our community we: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › are open minded › have high expectations of ourselves and others › continually challenge ourselves to be better › continually build resilience 	Use all spaces to enhance our development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › emotional › social › physical › academic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Create new knowledge › Seek solutions to problems › Collaborate with peers and adults › Innovate using different technologies and a variety of information › Give and accept feedback › Strive to achieve set goals 	Respect the spaces and equipment by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › using them for their intended purpose › actively working to solve issues › developing and displaying confidence › seeking assistance when needed



BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Newport Gardens 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 a School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support school we implement a framework that brings together our school community in developing a positive, safe, and supportive learning culture. This approach enables us to improve the social, emotional, behavioural, and academic outcomes for our students. The School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) provides an organisational approach or framework for improving the social behaviour climate of the school and supporting and enhancing the impact of academic instruction on achievement and increasing proactive management.

The key attributes of SWPBS include preventive activities, data-based decision making, and a problem-solving orientation. This is an approach with four defining beliefs and features:

- student misbehaviour can be changed and taught
- environments must be created and modified to change and encourage behaviour
- environments require change in adult behaviour through intentional teaching
- systems of support and effective instructional environments are necessary for both students and adults.

The intentional teaching of behavioural and learning expectations is centred around our school-wide behaviour matrix:

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Matrix

	 Inside <i>Inside spaces, including classrooms, the gym, library, art rooms, performing arts room and hallways</i>	Outside <i>Outside spaces, including oval, soccer field, basketball court, playground, gardens, toilets</i>	Digital Technology <i>While using Netbooks, iPads, and miscellaneous devices</i>	Always <i>All areas at all times</i>
Be a Learner	I display whole body listening I take responsibility for my own learning I display a growth mindset I share my ideas	I demonstrate sportsmanship I play fair, take my turn and follow game rules	I use the Internet as a learning resource I bring my device charged and ready for learning	I INCLUDE others and accept their differences I GROW by being resilient and challenging myself I persistently strive to IMPROVE I collaborate with others I can identify and manage my emotions
Be Respectful	I look after learning spaces, materials and equipment I listen when others are speaking I value opinions of others I let others learn	I put rubbish in the bin I use toilets in the right way and at the right time	I use all devices carefully I value others privacy and work I follow school procedures	I can solve problems I am a good friend I keep my hands and feet to myself I am courteous I am on time
Be Safe	I walk safely at all times I sit on chairs properly I ask teachers before leaving a learning space	I am sun smart I stay within the designated areas I take others' safety into consideration	I use teacher approved applications and websites I report cyber bullying I follow the Digital Technology Acceptable Use Agreement	I have a positive attitude to my learning I seek help and help others I think critically and creatively I keep my environment clean and organised I use all school equipment and spaces correctly



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
- 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:

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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 speaking or behaving in a rude, manipulative, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via electronic communication or social media, or over the telephone. It may also include:

- 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

<https://www.newportgardensps.vic.edu.au/policies/>

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in June 2021 and is scheduled for review in June 2024.