

Statement of Values & 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

Deans Marsh Primary School (DMPS) 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 DMPS 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 that promote the values in our school, including a behaviour matrix
- regularly celebrate our values in our school Marsh Messenger newsletter
- provide Marsh On Points as awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss and teach our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Deans Marsh is a wonderful place with unique nature and wildlife. Our school wishes to acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Gadubanud people. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and future.

VISION STATEMENT

Our DMPS vision is to provide a well-rounded education to create resilient, 21st century learners in a happy and safe environment.

MISSION STATEMENT

At Deans Marsh Primary School, we live and learn in the country and thrive in nature whilst finding happiness and pride when achieving something challenging

SCHOOL VALUES

Our DMPS values are Respect, Responsibility & Resilience and underpin all that we say and do at our school.

We use this framework to support the values:

DEFINE - clear and concise definition of values expectations (establish Behaviour Matrix)
TEACH - direct teaching of behaviour expectations
REMIND - daily reminders & supervision
CELEBRATE - consistent acknowledgement of the expected behaviours (Marsh On Milestones)
CORRECT - consistent correction of the problem behaviours (Remind-Warn-Act)

Each DMPS Value has 4 pillars:

Respect

Respect for Myself	Respect for Others	Respect for Learning	Respect for the Environment
Positive self esteem	Giving respect to earn respect	Trying my best at school	Looking after my world

Resilience

Emotional Literacy	Empathy	Mindfulness	Gratitude
Recognising my emotions	Identifying these emotions in others	Reflective practice	Appreciating what I have

Responsibility

Developing Independence	Building Confidence	Being Cooperative	Helping Others
Capable of resolving my own problems	Boosting my self esteem	Striving to do the right thing	Making positive contributions

The DMPS Values are supported by our involvement in the following programs: Respectful Relationships (RRRR), The Resilience Project, National Day of Action against Bullying & Violence, Lions Club Public Speaking Competition, eSmart, Healthy Achievement Program and Student Leadership Roles.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

DMPS 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 teachers, school leaders 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 collaboratively to create a school environment where respectful and safe behaviour is expected of everyone
- 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
- treat all members of the school community with respect
- 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
- 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 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:

- 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
- act in accordance with the school's behaviour matrix.

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

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

Health and Wellbeing Policy

School Values Matrix

Complaints Policy

Bullying Prevention Policy

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last ratified by School Council –17/11/20

REVIEW 2024