



Child Safe - Statement of Values and School Philosophy Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office or the Principal.

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

Sherbourne 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 Sherbourne 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, our staff handbook, student diary and parent handbook.

To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our school community, we

- display posters and banners that promote our values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter and regular Compass communications
- provide awards and positive Compass chronicles as recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies through our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) framework.

VISION:

Our school is committed to creating a community where all students feel accepted, respected and encouraged to reach their full potential, and are empowered to embrace learning, and strengthen their emotional, social and physical wellbeing.

MISSION:

At Sherbourne our mission is to provide a positive learning environment by:

- Engaging learners in motivating and challenging programs that are fun and enjoyable
- Ensuring our children are safe and happy
- Operating within a spirit of teamwork, collaboration and in partnership with the community
- Delivering quality, well planned and evaluated learning
- Maximising the opportunities for all individuals to achieve and succeed
- Fostering tolerance, respect and acceptance of others
- Providing staff with professional learning on Positive Classroom Management Strategies

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

Sherbourne Primary School's values are Curiosity, Growth, Connect and Respect. We promote a positive, inclusive, and supportive learning environment by demonstrating our school values in our words, actions, and relationships each day. Our values guide the way we learn, work together, and contribute to our school community.

Curiosity- We ask questions, explore new ideas, and show a willingness to learn from the world around us.

Growth- We challenge ourselves, learn from mistakes, and strive to improve.

Connect- We build positive relationships by including others, showing empathy, and working together. We connect our experiences with our learning.

Respect- We treat ourselves, others, and our environment with care, kindness, and consideration.

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

Sherbourne Primary School's objective is to enable all students to be literate, numerate and curious with a love of learning and the skills to pursue this. We aim to develop articulate, collaborative and compassionate community members who care about the environment and each other.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Sherbourne 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 principal 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

- ensure all parents/carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- 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 and carers 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 and carers 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 and carers about student outcomes
- work with parents and carers to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- work collaboratively with parents and carers 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, carers or the wider community
- 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, in line with the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- ensure our child attends school on time, every day the school is open for instruction, if able
- take an interest in our child's school and learning
- work with the school to achieve the best outcomes for our child/ren
- 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 our 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
- 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 (for more information, see the [SPS 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 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.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in enrolment packs
- Included as referenced in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

See also Sherbourne PS policies:

[Student Wellbeing and Engagement](#)

[Communication with School Staff](#)

[Respect for School Staff](#)

[Bullying Prevention Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	May 2026
Approved by	School Council - 19-5-2026
Next scheduled review date	May 2030



Child Safe - Statement of Values and School Philosophy Policy