



Newhaven Primary School

Statement of Values and School Philosophy



HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Newhaven Primary School on 03 5956 7326 or newhaven.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

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

Newhaven 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 Newhaven 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, values and expectations of our school community.

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

Newhaven Primary School is an open, inclusive and progressive Primary School, working hard to provide the best in Educational, Social, Sporting and Extra-curricular opportunities for all students. Newhaven Primary School's vision is to empower students to reach their personal best.

Our school's vision is to prepare our students to become active, thoughtful, engaged and responsible citizens of the local and global community. We acknowledge and support the potential and talent of each young person.

Mission

Newhaven Primary School embraces diversity so that all students are challenged to achieve their best. We

believe that education is a partnership between teachers, families, and the community. We all work together, valuing effort, respect and responsibility.

“It Takes A Whole Village to Raise A Child.”

We support our children to be the best they can be as learners and global citizens. We pride ourselves of our community and the connections we make to ensure we all thrive.

With heads, hearts and hands together, we develop ourselves and others to achieve excellence in character, communication, creativity, critical thinking, citizenship and collaboration. To do this we have high expectations for all of our learners. Together we have created a culture that supports resilience and persistence in the pursuit of our individual and collective goals.

We strive to empower our students to build confidence in

- what is important to **Know** (knowledge and understanding)
- what is important to **Do** (skills) and
- what is important to **Be** (personal qualities values and mindsets) skills

OBJECTIVE

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

Our school values continue to be part of the vision for the school. We tie the values into the life of our learning community. As a community we use the values when dealing with students and adults on an everyday basis, displaying our values in all we do.

Values form the foundation of our planning and guide our direction as a community.

At Newhaven Primary School our School Values are:

- **Respect** - Being thoughtful, considerate and courteous
- **Responsibility** - for our behaviour and actions
- **Challenging ourselves** - learning from our mistakes, taking risks with our learning, being brave and confident

Individual Excellence is embedded in our rich learning environment which values and supports diversity, excellence and teamwork. We foster a spirit of mutual respect and support, where every student is expected to strive to reach his or her potential.

At Newhaven Primary School, we:

- Welcome creativity, curiosity and celebrate innovation in a safe and supportive environment
- Foster courage in thoughts and actions
- Respect and support different learning styles
- Demonstrate enthusiasm for learning and teaching and welcome new challenges and opportunities
- Work collaboratively in pursuit of individual excellence for all members of the school community
- Interact positively, constructively and respectfully with each other
- Support the aspirations of others and accept responsibility for achieving our own individual excellence
- Display pride in our school, our heritage and ourselves
- Embrace our obligation to contribute positively to the school and wider community

Behavioural expectations

Newhaven Primary School acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture.

Staff have a range of expectations around behaviour and must follow our school and Department policies and the Victorian Public Service Code of Conduct and Values. Teaching staff also adhere to the [Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#).

Students are supported by school staff to meet expected standards of behaviour as outlined in our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy.

Information about the expectations on parents and carers to ensure schools remain respectful and inclusive places is outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#).

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:

- 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 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.

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
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community](#)
- [Respectful Workplaces](#)

- [Parent Complaints](#)
- [Work-Related Violence in Schools](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	Term 2, 2023
Approved by	School Council – Tuesday 16 th May 2023
Next scheduled review date	Before term 3, 2027