



## STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact 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

Barrawang 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 Barrawang 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 induction handbook, and enrolment/transition packs.

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

- explicitly teach and model our school values to our students
- display posters and banners that promote our values in our school
- celebrate our values on our social media platforms
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with staff, students and the community

### VISION



# BARRAWANG PRIMARY SCHOOL

School number: 5585

Address: 7 Islington Street, Wollert, 3750

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Email: [barrawang.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:barrawang.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

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Barrawang Primary School's vision is to ensure that our students are at the centre of everything that we do. Together we create a learning community that values diversity, inclusion and high expectations for all students.

## MISSION

Barrawang Primary School's mission is to provide all students with high quality learning experiences that challenge and support them to REACH their full potential.

## 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

Barrawang Primary School's values are R.E.A.C.H

**Resilience-** we can bounce back from challenges

**Excellence-** we aim high and persevere, we ensure that every individual has an equal opportunity to reach their full potential

**Acceptance-** we respect and value all members of our community, embracing with dignity their talents, beliefs, backgrounds, and ways of living

**Curiosity-** we question and explore the new, unusual, and interesting to better understand the world around us

**Honesty-** we act with integrity and courage and take responsibility for our actions.

## SUPPORTED INCLUSION AT BARRAWANG PRIMARY SCHOOL

The point of difference for Supported Inclusion Schools (SIS) from other Victorian government schools is their unique objective to support a higher number of students with disabilities. SIS offer extra emphasis on services and features that support the student's journey from enrolment; for the duration of enrolment; and finally, as students transition to new learning settings.

This includes a focus on:

- resources, equipment and technology
- physical environment
- curriculum and pedagogy.

The overarching objective of SIS is to provide assessment, curriculum and pedagogy that is rigorous and accessible for all students.

The four main areas of focus for Barrawang Primary School as a SIS include:



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- relationship building
- strengths-based practice
- differentiation
- a developmental approach to assessment.

Four guiding principles that support the objectives of Barrawang Primary School as a SIS school are to:

1. focus on inclusive practice at whole-of-school and in-class level
2. value specialist expertise
3. set a strong inclusive school culture through strong leadership
4. collaborate and engage parents, families and the community.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Barrawang 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 principals and school leaders, we will:**

- model and uphold our school values
- model 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 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 and explicitly teach our school values to our students



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- 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 and uphold our school values
- 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
- 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:**

- demonstrate our school values at all times
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- 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.

### **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:

- 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 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 and handbook
- included in transition and enrolment packs
- made available in hard copy from school administration upon request



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## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL) and resources:
  - [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
  - [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- Related Policies:
  - Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
  - Inclusion and Diversity Policy
  - Bullying Prevention Policy
  - Parent Complaints Policy
  - Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
  - Complaints Policy
  - Duty of Care Policy



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## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2022
Approved by	Principal. To be ratified by School Council in 2023*
Next scheduled review date	June 2023 – to ensure ongoing relevance and continuous improvement, this policy will be reviewed every 3-4 years thereafter. The review will include input from students, parents/carers and the school community.

\* The Statement of Values and School Philosophy will be reviewed and approved by the School Council once they are appointed.