



# *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**

Nepean 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 Nepean 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 and from the Office.

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

- create Classroom Agreements based on our school rules of kindness
- 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**

Nepean School's vision is to provide an innovative, inclusive and supportive environment for students with physical disabilities and complex health needs.

## **Mission**

Nepean School's mission is to aim to instil confidence and resilience in students to support them in accessing rewarding life experiences and a meaningful place in society.

## **Objective**

Nepean School's objective is to work with students towards their individualised learning goals to realise their potential.

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**

Nepean School's values are underpinned by love, empathy and kindness –

- excellence and best practice in learning and teaching
- a sense of belonging through social connectedness
- creating and celebrating success together

- teamwork and perseverance
- respect
- communication and empowerment
- independence and a strong sense of self
- equity
- right to learn, play & communicate in a safe environment




### Motto

Our school motto reflects our ongoing commitment to learning, working and playing together, understanding that it is our shared skills, knowledge and passions that make a difference to our students.

*Together we Achieve the Extraordinary*

### Rules

Nepean School rules are based on kindness.

	<p><i>Kindness to Ourselves</i></p>	<p>always trying our best understanding that mistakes are part of learning being healthy and safe</p>
	<p><i>Kindness to the Environment</i></p>	<p>keeping our school tidy looking after our plants, trees and waterways packing things up when we finish</p>
	<p><i>Kindness to Each Other</i></p>	<p>listening and talking respectfully sharing and playing together helping each other</p>

### Behavioural Expectations

Nepean 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 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 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
- advocate for the school and its students in the broader community

**As teachers, therapists and education support class officers, we will:**

- understand the individual needs of students and accommodate those needs through implementing a range of strategies
- ensure each student has an equal opportunity to participate
- listen to students and value their contributions
- Use each student's individual communication system
- enable access to learning
- create engaging and motivating learning opportunities and environments for students
- model positive behaviour to students consistent with the standards of our professions
- 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:**

- promote positive educational outcomes for our children
- ensure our children are attending school whenever possible, including notifying when their child is absent, as this is a legal requirement
- communicate clearly with the school about the needs of our children
- cooperate with requests from the school
- 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
- 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:**

- join in at school in a positive way and strive for our personal best
- treat classmates/teachers with respect and dignity
- value school resources
- play and work safely at all times
- follow our school rules
- demonstrate our school values
- model positive behaviour to other students
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- comply with and model school values
- 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:**

- promote positive educational outcomes for all students
- 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 process for communication with staff and submitting complaints
- 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, via text, via 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 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
- referenced in staff handbook
- made available in hard copy from the school Office

## Related Policies and Resources

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)

Nepean School policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy

## Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	April 2024
Approved by	School Council, September 2024
Next scheduled review date	April 2027