

## 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

Skipton 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 community. We respect the diversity of individuals in our school and acknowledge shared responsibilities of all members to build a safe and respectful environment.

The programs and teaching at Skipton 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.

### VISION

Skipton Primary School's vision is for our students to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.

### MISSION

Skipton Primary School provides a safe, inclusive environment that encourages and inspires our student to engage in their own education, giving them the tools and resources to reach their full academic, sporting, musical and artistic potential.

### OBJECTIVE

Skipton Primary School's objective is to:

- to provide an educational program that develops student's curiosity and creativity,
- to develop responsible and engaged learners,
- to foster tolerance, respect and acceptance of others,
- to build each student's resilience and self-esteem,
- to provide a curriculum that is rich and relevant and allows students to succeed,
- to promote and strong, supportive partnership between home and school and the wider community, and
- to have high expectations of ourselves and others.

### VALUES

Skipton Primary School's values are:

- Lead and Achieve
- Be responsible
- Be respectful and caring
- Be healthy

### BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Skipton 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 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,
- behave in a manner consistent with the standards of our profession and meet core responsibilities to provide safe and inclusive environments,
- plan, implement and monitor arrangements 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, and
- 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 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, and
- treat all members of the school community with respect.

As parents and carers, we will:

- model positive behaviour to our children,
- 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 children's school and learning,
- work with the school to achieve the best outcomes for our children,
- 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, and
- 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, and
- 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, and
- 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.

Behaviour that a reasonable person may consider to be unacceptable may include but is not limited to:

- 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, and
- 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 be managed in according with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy* and *Bullying Prevention Policy*, the appropriate *Department of Education and Training Victoria policy* or, at the principal's discretion, may be referred to Victoria Police for further investigation or action.

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

For further information, please refer to our policies: *Student Wellbeing and Engagement*, *Visitors and Complaints Policy*.

### REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last reviewed in November 2020. It is due for review in 2022.