

# Clifton Creek 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 [insert school contact details].

### 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

Clifton Creek 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 Clifton Creek 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 and our staff induction handbook.

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

Clifton Creek Primary School's vision is to empower students to become their best through focusing on teaching and learning with a shared commitment of school improvement whilst maintaining our individuality, celebrating our successes, and continuing to make decisions with a Kids First focus.

## MISSION

Clifton Creek Primary School's mission is to provide students with the best possible foundation in life through a well-rounded education in order that they become healthy, happy and responsible individuals.

## 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

Clifton Creek Primary School's values are "One In All In", Valuing Differences, Kids First Principles and Unique

### ONE IN, ALL IN

- Our school activities are approached with the positive mantra "one in, all in".
- Inclusiveness drives "one in, all in" practices.
- Personal well-being is never compromised.
- Opting out is only a consequence of informed choice.
- Have a go till you know!

### VALUING DIFFERENCES

Staff at Clifton Creek Primary School acknowledge that every individual is unique with his/her own set of life experiences. We recognise that children cannot be expected to learn using a 'one size fits all' approach. We strive to provide programs that cater for individual difference. Children are encouraged to acknowledge and celebrate differences; skills, abilities, needs, attitudes, learning styles, interests, passions and backgrounds.

### KIDS FIRST PRINCIPLES

- The emotional, physical and academic well-being /development of every child is paramount.
- All points of view and all points of need are considered in the planning and implementing of teaching and learning activities.
- No child will miss an educational opportunity because of financial strain or personal situations.

- Children make their own choices when possible, staff ensure options are respectful, safe and not detrimental to their educational outcomes.

## UNIQUE

Unique may be defined as being the only one of its kind and there is no doubt that education at CCPS is unique.

*Outside the square:* Some of our well-loved rituals such as Buddies, Mini-fete, Wishes, Concert Munchie Mondays, Kitchen-Garden and The STAR Program are stamped with CCPS creativity and approached in surprisingly fresh ways to ensure engagement of our students and real-life learning. Daily routines provide students with structure and familiar patterns but within this we are also able to embrace one of the big advantages of a small school- flexibility.

*Distinctive setting:* We have an expansive outdoor learning space with panoramic views across rolling farmland and bush. An enclosed yard and a rustic pavilion house our resident chooks, peacock and guinea pigs (returning soon). Exciting play equipment, beautiful secret garden, undercover stage, water wise vegetable garden and a newly established frog bog (returning soon) provide much to occupy and enthuse children during playtime.

*Our staff:* A unique combination of energetic, caring, enthusiastic individuals dedicated to educating the children work at Clifton Creek school. Teachers at Clifton Creek all have a close understanding of the students and work tirelessly to make positive things happen for them.

### *Unique Rituals:*

- Munchie Mondays

is the tuckshop and Lunch Order service offered by Senior Class children. The availability is advised in the newsletter and a menu is circulated to students. Orders and payment are required by the Friday morning. One of our staff supervises and co-ordinates Munchie Mondays. As well as being a “real life” maths activities, this is also a form of fundraising by the Senior Class students, with profits going to the World Vision sponsorship of a young person in Zambia.

- Tuckshop Tuesday

is the over-the-counter sales service operated by Year 5 children at play-time periodically during the school term. We encourage children to bring a small amount of money to support Tuckshop rather than including shop treats from home on these days. Again, parents will be advised on the availability of this option via the weekly newsletter.

- Friday Wishes

An exciting ritual at Clifton Creek is our occasional Friday Wishes. Each Buddies pair is able to choose one ‘wish’ for the whole school to participate in over the year. Wishes in the past have included activities such as Pet Day, Anything on Wheels, Dress up Day, Whole School Sleep-over and Movie Day.

- Mothers Day Dinner

Imagine, Mums, having a meal cooked for you with no dishes to worry about afterwards. Each year early in May, children show appreciation to their mums by hosting a special dinner here at school- be ready for some extra pampering, TLC and special treats from your child.

- Kids & Blokes Evening

Dads and their primary school children come along to school for an evening of friendship, games and challenges. Pizzas are traditionally on the menu for this annual ritual celebrated early in September.

- Mini-fete

Our very own mini-fete in October is a great example of real-life learning as students in grades 3-6 run the whole day themselves. They select the activities and amusements, plan and prepare for the mini-fete and are responsible for operating all aspects on the day. We are proud to say our mini-fete is “run by the kids for the kids”.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Clifton Creek 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
- 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 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
- 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
- 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:

- 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
- 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 handbook/manual
- Made available in hard copy from administration upon request

## 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](#)

Relevant CCPS School Policies:

- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- [Inclusion and Diversity Policy](#)
- [Bullying Prevention Policy](#)
- [Parent Complaints Policy](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	[insert date]
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	[insert date – noting that the recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years]