



Sydney Road Community 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 Sydney Road Community School on 03 9380 9417 or sydney.road.com@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

Sydney Road Community School (SRCS) 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 SRCS 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.

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

- display posters and banners that promote our values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

VISION

We are a community of learners that provides a place where students feel welcome and want to engage and succeed.

We meet students at their point of need and believe they will thrive as both learners and individuals. We seek not to judge and acknowledge the challenges they face.

We celebrate difference and empower our community to find their voice and be heard.

MISSION

The mission of SRCS is to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of individual learners, ensuring educational success regardless of their trajectory prior to enrolling at our school.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of SRCS is to ensure all young people find a safe and inclusive environment in which to engage with their learning in order to thrive and leave school ready to make positive contributions to society.

VALUES

At SRCS we value individuals and celebrate differences. We want every student to feel they belong and know they will be looked after. Our school values; Learning, Respect, Safety and Opportunity were developed via the implementation of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS). We are always learning. We respect each other and ourselves. We build a positive environment for the safety of all. We make the most of every opportunity. Students and staff are expected to work cooperatively and collectively within the school to support others, as well as in the broader and global community.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

SRCS acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers, kin 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 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, carers and kin of the school's communication and complaints procedures
- ensure that any person who is acting in an offensive, intimidating or otherwise inappropriate way is supported to change this behaviour.

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/carers/kin about student outcomes
- work with parents/carers/kin to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- work collaboratively with parents/carers/kin 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, carers and kin, we will:

- model positive behaviour to our child
- 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 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
- respect 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, kin, students or members of our school community will not be tolerated at school, or during school activities.

Unreasonable behaviour includes:

- speaking or behaving in a rude, manipulative, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via electronic communication, 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 behaviours
- 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school website
- Included in the staff induction handbook
- Available in hard copy upon request from the office.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Department policies and guidelines:

[Respectful Behaviours within the School Community](#)

[Respectful Workplaces](#)

[Parent Complaints](#)

[Work-Related Violence in Schools](#)

REVIEW CYCLE

Policy last reviewed	February 2024
Approved by School Council	
Next scheduled review date	February 2028 (3-4 years)