

Statement of Values and School Philosophy



HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS AND FOR THOSE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Lyndhurst Primary School (LPS) on 03 8768 6700 or lyndhurst.ps@education.vic.gov



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

LPS 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 LPS 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

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

1. Vision

LPS provides a safe and happy learning environment, in which children are able to achieve their potential. It is a school where trust, respect and valuing others are fundamental beliefs.

Our Philosophy

We believe that education extends beyond academics—it is about nurturing well-rounded individuals who contribute positively to their communities. Our approach to teaching and learning is guided by the belief that every child deserves a high-quality education that:

- Encourages **critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving**

- Fosters **empathy, integrity, and respect**
- Instills a **lifelong love of learning**
- Promotes **active participation in a global society**

2. Mission

LPS is committed to educational excellence and providing children with the opportunity to learn to the best of their ability.

Our goal is to develop students' skills, attitudes, and abilities so they can achieve their highest academic, creative, and social potential while making meaningful contributions throughout their lives.

We accomplish this by:

- Delivering a **rigorous, engaging, and personalised curriculum** that empowers students to take ownership of their learning.
- Supporting a **dedicated team of educators** committed to excellence in teaching and continuous professional growth.
- Creating a **collaborative school culture** that actively involves students, parents, and the wider community in the learning journey.
- Fostering an **inclusive and respectful environment** that values and celebrates diversity.
- Providing **innovative and high-quality resources** to support student learning and development.

3. 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.

4. Values

LPS Core Values serve as the foundation for everything we do at Lyndhurst Primary School. They guide our actions, shape our relationships, and define our expectations for students, staff, and the wider school community.

- Optimism: *"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement."* – Helen Keller
We believe in fostering a positive mindset where challenges are seen as opportunities for growth, and every student is encouraged to strive for success.
- Respect: *"Respect. Have it not only for others, but also for yourself."* – Xondra Day
We create an environment where everyone feels valued and heard, fostering a culture of kindness, understanding, and appreciation.
- Integrity: *"Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not."* – Oprah Winfrey
We encourage honesty, accountability, and strong moral principles in all aspects of school life.
- Empathy: *"Seeing with the eyes of another, listening with the ears of another, and feeling with the heart of another."* – Alfred Adler
We teach students to understand and respect different perspectives, promoting compassion and inclusivity.
- Responsibility: *"Accept responsibility for your life. Know that it is you who will get you where you want to go, no one else."* – Les Brown
We empower students to take ownership of their learning, actions, and contributions to the school and wider community.

LPS is more than just a place of learning—it is a community where students feel safe, inspired, and supported to reach their potential. With a strong focus on **academic excellence, personal development, and community engagement**, we provide an environment where every student can thrive.

Together, we foster a culture of **high achievement, respect, and lifelong learning**, ensuring that LPS remains a school that our students, staff, and families can take pride in.

5. Behavioural expectations

LPS acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture.

Staff have a range of expectations around behaviour and must follow our school and Department policies and the Victorian Public Service Code of Conduct and Values. Teaching staff also adhere to the [Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#).

Students are supported by school staff to meet expected standards of behaviour as outlined in our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Inclusion and Diversity Policy, and Bullying Prevention Policy.

Information about the expectations on parents and carers to ensure schools remain respectful and inclusive places is outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#) and our Respect for School Staff Policy.

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.

6. 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
- inappropriate communication including time of day and mode of contact

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 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 staff training
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Discussed at student forums
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request
- Signage will be displayed at the front office

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

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

The following school policies are relevant to this policy:

- Complaints Policy
- Communication with School Staff Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Respect for School Staff Policy
- Student Wellbeing Engagement
- Visitors Policy
- Volunteer Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	Tuesday 20th May 2025
Consultation	Whole staff Governance meetings Annual Child Safe Vision Day
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	May 2028