

Moonee Ponds West Primary School



Statement of Values and School Philosophy Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school reception on 9 370 6875 or by email on:

moonee.ponds.west.ps@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

Moonee Ponds West 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 Moonee Ponds West 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 linked to our staff induction handbook, student diary and enrolment/transition packs.

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

- display posters and banners that promote our values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

VISION

Moonee Ponds West's vision is **'We think, create and learn together'**.

MISSION

Moonee Ponds West's mission is for 'young people to leave Moonee Ponds West as knowledgeable, independent, critical thinking individuals able to take their place in the world with capacity and courage to create a better future. The MPW community do this by nurturing compassion, creativity and a love of learning.'

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

Moonee Ponds West's values are: **CREATIVITY, RESPECT, COLLABORATION & RESILIENCE.**

Creativity – We are Inventive

- We use original and inventive thinking to choose strategies and solve problems

Respect – We are Kind

- We show kindness, we try to understand how others feel, we listen and build each other up

Collaboration – We Work together

- We work together and we are inclusive

Resilience – We are brave

- We give things a go and keep trying when things don't go as planned.

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

The social, emotional, physical and academic wellbeing of our students underpins all practices at MPW. A positive self-image is necessary for effective learning to occur. These aspects of the whole child need to be equally nurtured to ensure that students experience success.

Children are at the centre of planning and are unique individuals with a powerful capacity to contribute and learn. MPW is child centred with an emphasis on deep inquiry, critical thinking and creativity. Inquiry through exploration, investigation and play in meaningful experiences provides opportunity to engage and involve children. Through structured and unstructured, teacher and student-led experiences, children construct their understandings of the world.

Learning is a continuum and each child is supported to move along the learning continuum and build on their achievements, ability, interests and knowledge. Children are supported to feel secure to take risks.

All children and their opinions are valued. Learning experiences are planned to challenge bias and stereotypes where respect for the rights of individuals and an acceptance for difference enable children to participate in society.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Moonee Ponds West 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.

Shared expectations of staff, parents, carers and students to support positive student behaviour are set out in the [Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour statement](#).

Students are also 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.

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.

Staff 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's Code of Conduct](#).

As 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.

Parents and carers play a vital role in helping their child understand and meet shared behaviour expectations. Additionally, information about the expectations of 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. Schools can share these expectations through use of [posters](#) available in over [30 translated languages](#).

As parents and carers, we will:

- model positive behaviour to our child
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- ensure our children attend 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 or complaints
- support school staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students
- treat all staff, students, and other members of the school community with respect.

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 demonstrated by school staff, parents, carers, students or members of our school community is not 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 is not 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 is treated with fairness and respect. In turn, we strive to create a school that is inclusive and safe, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included as reference in school newsletter when required
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- [Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour](#)

Moonee Ponds West's policies:

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

- Child Safe Code of Conduct
- Visitors Policy
- Volunteers Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2026
Approved by	School Council August 2026
Consultation	Education Committee August 2026 School Council August 2026
Next scheduled review date	July 2030