



STATEMENT OF VALUES & SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY POLICY

BLACKBURN LAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL
FLORENCE ST BLACKBURN 3130

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of Blackburn Lake Primary School (BLPS), school community and explain the vision, mission and objectives of our school.

POLICY

Blackburn Lake 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 learning environment for our students.

The programs and teaching at Blackburn Lake 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 is available on our school website and from our school office.

VISION

Blackburn Lake Primary School prides itself in providing an education that balances academic, social and emotional growth for all. The school motto, *"learning together"* reflects the high importance that is placed on making all members of the school community welcome, safe, engaged, informed and enriched.

MISSION

The Blackburn Lake Primary School Mission is to provide, *"... an enriching, supportive and motivating learning environment that challenges the whole school community to strive for their personal best and optimise learning opportunities for all students"* encapsulates the school's objectives.

OBJECTIVE

Blackburn Lake Primary School prides itself in providing an education that balances academic, social and emotional growth for all.

BLPS aims to achieve excellence in all academic areas:

- The learning environment is supportive and productive
- The learning environment promotes independence, interdependence and self-motivation
- Students' needs, backgrounds, perspectives and interests are reflected in the learning program
- Students are challenged and supported to develop deep levels of thinking and application
- Assessment practices are an integral part of teaching and learning

- Learning connects strongly with communities and practice beyond the classroom

VALUES

Central to the positive BLPS culture are the whole-school “TRRAC Values” (Thinking Respect Responsibility Attitude and Caring). These values are entrenched in all aspects of learning, teaching and community engagement.

Similarly the school’s code of conduct reflects the TRRAC values and sets a high standard and a shared community expectation that:

- Everyone in our school has the right to learn
- Everyone in our school has the right to be treated with respect
- Everyone in our school has the right to be part of a responsible community
- Everyone in our school has the right to have a go
- Everyone in our school has the right to feel safe and be cared for by others

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

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

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Blackburn Lake Primary School acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our whole 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 Principal’s 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 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
- 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 the school TRRAC 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 *External Provider 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:

- 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
- 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 accordance with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy* and *Bullying Prevention and Management Policy*.

Our *Statement of Values and School Philosophy Policy* 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

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Bullying Prevention and Management Policy

EVALUATION

This Policy was last approved by the School Council in November 2020 and is scheduled for review in November 2023.

PRINCIPAL: Loisia Steed **SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT:** Jennee Chan

