Beechworth Primary School

Be ...

Respectful, **S**afe, **P**ersistent, **C**aring ... **A**lways!

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Beechworth Primary School is committed to the implementation of Child Safe Standards to promote the safety and wellbeing of all young people.

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office.

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

Beechworth 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 Beechworth 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, our staff induction handbook, and enrolment 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 our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

VISION

At Beechworth Primary School, we nurture every student in a supportive and inclusive environment to thrive.

MISSION

At Beechworth Primary School, we are committed to creating an inclusive and engaging learning environment where students develop the values of Respect, Persistence, Safety and Caring. Through innovative teaching, strong partnerships with families, and high expectations, we empower every student to achieve their full potential.

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 drive the key improvement strategies and strive to achieve the goals contained in our SSP.

SCHOOL MOTO

Respect, Safety, Persistence and Caring … Always!

VALUES

Beechworth Primary School's values are:

- **Respect:**
  At Beechworth Primary School, we demonstrate respect to ourselves, our peers, our teachers and visitors to the school.

- **Safety:**
  At Beechworth Primary School we seek to make our school community a safe place for students, staff, families and all visitors.

- **Persistence:**
  At Beechworth Primary School we seek challenges in our education and we work hard towards achieving our goals. We continually grow as individuals and as learners by giving/trying our best in the classroom, in the playground and at home.

- **Caring:**
  At Beechworth Primary School we strive towards caring for ourselves, others and our environment. We are a caring school community that displays kindness and understanding to others through our words and actions.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Beechworth 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** and **Respect for School Staff 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 or in relation to school matters.

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 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.

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
- Included in our Enrolment Packs
- Included as an annual reference in our School Newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from the School Office on request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education policies and resources:

- Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy
- Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy

RELATED BPS POLICIES

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Bully Prevention Policy
- Beechworth SWPBS Matrix – Appendix A
- Visitors Policy
- Respect for School Staff Policy
- Complaints Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	April/May 2025
Consultation	BPS Leadership Team – 5 May 2025 BPS SIT Team – 12 May 2025 BPS Teachers – 13 May 2025 BPS School Council – 14 May 2025
Approved by	School Council – 14 May 2025 School Principal – Susan McDonald – 14 May 2025
Next scheduled review date	May 2029

At Beechworth Primary School we are

Respectful

Speak politely
Listen actively
Follow instructions
Talk it out
Be honest

Persistent

Challenge ourselves
Learn from our mistakes
Keep calm
Bounce back
Own our choices

Caring

Are friendship Ninjas
Care for our self & others
Look after our property & the environment

Safe

Choose healthy friendships
Follow safety rules
Be SunSmart