



STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Hallam PS on 9703 1536.

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

Hallam 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.

We respectfully acknowledge the Bunurong people of the South-Eastern Kulin Nation, the traditional Owners of the land on which we learn and work, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

The programs and teaching at Hallam 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.

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

- display posters and banners that promote the 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

Hallam Primary School's vision is to provide, in partnership with parents, a supportive and engaging learning environment that promotes and develops skills, knowledge and values that will enable learners to respond effectively to a rapidly changing, complex world.



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MISSION

Hallam Primary School's mission is to provide a high-quality and coherent Foundation to Year 6 learning and development program to build the capability of each student.

OBJECTIVE

Hallam Primary School's main objective is to ensure all students leave our school prepared for the next phase of their education.

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

Hallam Primary School's values are:

Trust: this means that others can depend on you to be truthful and responsible.

Behaviours that demonstrate this value include:

- Speaking truthfully with one another
- Be willing to express your opinion
- Reflecting on own and others' performance honestly
- Keeping promises
- Being able to take risks safely
- Demonstrating that you are reliable
- People having confidence in your abilities
- Being honest
- Keeping your commitments

Persistence: this means seeking to accomplish something worthy and admirable, trying hard and not giving up easily.

Behaviours that demonstrate this value include:

- Persevering with a task through to completion
- Remaining focused
- Giving it your best shot!
- Rising to challenge
- Discovering how good you can become
- Learning trial and error strategies
- Keep on trying even though a task may seem challenging

Learning for Success: this means taking every opportunity to pursue excellence.

Behaviours that demonstrate this value include:

- Listening carefully
- Giving something your full effort
- Being honest and trustworthy
- Trying to make good choices
- Interacting with others, maintaining good team relationships
- Resolving conflicts and managing disappointment
- Developing individual educational interests



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- Locating new sources of information
- Thinking deeply/reflecting on own learning

Positive Partnerships: this means being part of a productive team.

Behaviours that demonstrate this value include:

- Encouraging positive actions and appreciation for people's good behaviour and ideas
- Allowing others to contribute their talents and skills
- Active listening
- Achieving more and getting more done
- Developing new friendships
- Treating everyone equally
- Communicating calmly
- Putting competition aside
- Being flexible when a group is in disagreement

Mutual Respect: this means treating one another and the school environment with consideration and courtesy.

Behaviours that demonstrate the value include:

- Active listening to a speaker in all situations without interruption
- No putdowns
- Open communication (open-minded)
- Being punctual
- Thinking how you would like to be treated then treating others that way
- Acceptance of different personality types
- Acceptance of different teaching styles
- Allowing others to voice their opinion
- Acknowledging efforts and accomplishments
- Considering individual views in decision making processes
- Being conscious of personal workspaces
- Accepting constructive feedback
- Carrying out commitments
- Using positive body language

Environmental Awareness: this means understanding that there are many things we can do to protect the natural environment.

Behaviours that demonstrate this value include:

- Practising the 3Rs: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle
- Taking care of the land so it can be preserved for future generations
- No littering
- Preserving native plants and animals
- Saving our natural resources – water, power
- Being mindful when using paper, printers, workbooks
- Appreciating nature
- Showing care and compassion
- Being responsible.



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BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Hallam Primary School 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.

Hallam 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



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- 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*).

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



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- 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 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 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
- Included as an annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

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

Hallam Primary School policies: [About Us | Hallam Primary School \(hallam-ps.vic.edu.au\)](#)



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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	2023
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	2023-2027