

# Statement of Values and School Philosophy 2023



## HELP FOR NON ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Southern Autistic School on 03 9563 8139 or [southern.autistic.sch@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:southern.autistic.sch@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

Southern Autistic 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 Southern Autistic 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 will be available on our school website, our staff induction program is available [insert or amend] on our school website and our staff induction handbook..

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

- display posters and banners that promote your 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

Southern Autistic School's vision is for our students is to become lifelong learners who have a sense of belonging and are encouraged to implement skills and knowledge to make choices and accept responsibility for their own decisions. It is a vision for the school to create an environment where trust, respect and valuing others are fundamental beliefs.

## **MISSION**

Southern Autistic School is committed to building relationships that value diversity and are based on collaboration, mutual respect, social equality, co-operation, shared responsibility and self discipline.

## **OBJECTIVE**

Southern Autistic School's learning Community is committed to the improvement and enhancement of student learning in order to equip students for the future. All members of the school community, students, staff and parents, are open and committed to the shared vision of on going learning and continuous development in the provision of the best educational practices. Southern Autistic School's learning community model is characterised by:

- lifelong learning
- commitment to personal growth, shared vision and team learning
- assisting all students to embrace learning
- connectedness through strong community partnerships

## **VALUES**

Southern Autistic School's values are:

- I am Safe
- I am a Learner
- I Belong

Our values are central to the life of our school and how all members of the school community should conduct themselves.

## **BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS**

Southern Autistic 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:**

- Uphold the principals of School Wide Positive Behaviours
- 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
- 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
- provide individual learning plans for all students
- work with parents to understand their child's needs
- respond appropriately when safe and inclusive behaviour is not demonstrated and

implement appropriate interventions 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 and School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Framework
- conduct termly Student Support Group Meetings to engage in student progression
- 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 members of the school community with respect.

#### **As students, we will:**

- model positive behaviour to other students
- follow our School Wide Positive Behaviour Plan with assistance of our teachers
- model positive behaviour to our 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
- 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
- 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 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 process
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

### **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](#)

### **APPROVAL AND REVIEW**

Policy last reviewed	November 2023
Approved by	School Council – February 2024
Next scheduled review date	Before: October 2027