

## STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the Assistant principal

### 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

Balnarring 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 Balnarring 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/transition 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

Balnarring Primary School's vision is to *is to develop competent, curious learners who strive to do their best and both respect and care for themselves, others and the environment.*

## MISSION

At Balnarring Primary School where 'Nature Meets Nurture' our mission is to ensure that all students:

- learn the necessary skills and attitudes to become competent, curious learners,
- develop as happy, healthy and resilient individuals who respect and care for themselves, others and the environment,
- become lifelong learners, and
- strive to do their best.

## 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.

Our view of the future at Balnarring Primary School includes:

- An environment where confident students take responsibility for their learning. We show initiative, celebrate our successes and value an inquiring mind.
- A challenging and comprehensive curriculum that stimulates all students to do their best. We value effort, endeavour and we pursue excellence.
- A highly skilled staff who are motivated and enthusiastic about learning and teaching. We respect a teacher's right to teach and a student's right to learn.
- An environment where respect for others and unity between all members of the school community is highly valued. We treat each other with consideration and regard. We are inclusive.
- A caring and supportive environment which promotes honesty and where children feel safe and secure. We build positive relationships within our community.

## VALUES

Balnarring Primary School's values are respect and care.

**Respect:** We respect ourselves, our school and each other and everyone's differences. We understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people around us.

**Care:** We act in a kind way that shows that we take every opportunity to look after ourself, others and the environment.

**We try our hardest and do our best.**

The school community voices a weekly promise to one another.

***I promise to respect and care for myself.***

***I promise to respect and care for others.***

***I promise to respect and care for the environment.***

***I promise to do my best.***

***Because that is the Balnarring way.***

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Balnarring 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.

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, Bullying Prevention Policy.

**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](#).

**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](#).

## 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
- 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 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 as an Annual reference in school newsletter
- 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](#)

Balnarring Primary School polices:

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

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	18 March 2026
Approved by	Principal School Council
Next scheduled review date	March 2029