STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

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
Ararat North 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 Ararat North 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, 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 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.

School council approved this policy on [insert date].
VISION

Ararat North Primary School’s vision is to encourage the development of the whole student. Our aim is to support lifelong learners who are curious, creative, adaptable, reflective and caring in their thinking as local and global citizens.

Our School Vision
Our school strives to be safe and all inclusive.
Our school will continue the tradition of challenging and creating lifelong learners.

MISSION

Mission Statement

At Ararat North Primary School our mission is to provide every student with rich learning opportunities in a happy, safe and inclusive educational community.

• To recognise and develop each person’s sense of self-worth;
• To foster a genuine concern for others in the wider community and in the world in which we live;
• To plan, organize and celebrate as a community;
• To challenge and encourage our students to achieve their personal best in all endeavours;
• To provide a friendly, stimulating, happy and secure environment where each child, teacher and adult is valued;
• To welcome, respect and value people of all faiths and cultures;
• To recognise the wide range of skills and talents of our community and to allow these gifts to be “shared” with others;
• To provide a caring community where little things matter.

School council approved this policy on [insert date].
OBJECTIVE

- Ararat North Primary School’s objective is to raise standards by promoting a school ethos and vision; this is underpinned by core values.
- To support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner.
- To inform and guide behaviour so that our pupils can achieve positive and purposeful lives for themselves and their communities.
- To establish Ararat North Primary School as a safe, caring and respectful environment where everyone develops a sense of responsibility, self-reliance, feels true friendship, and optimistic about the future.

Ararat North Primary School’s Objectives are:

- To provide an educational program that develops students’ curiosity and creativity.
- To develop responsible and engaged learners.
- To foster tolerance, respect and acceptance of others.
- To build each student’s resilience and self-esteem.
- To care about and support each other.
- To work together as a team to achieve common goals.
- To provide a curriculum that is rich and relevant and allows all students to succeed.
- To promote a strong, supportive partnership between home and the school and the wider community.

School council approved this policy on [insert date].
VALUES
Ararat North Primary School’s values are Respect Responsibility and Resilience

OUR VALUES EDUCATION OBJECTIVES

OUR CORE VALUES:
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Resilience

LANGUAGE OF OUR CORE VALUES FOR THE SCHOOL CONTEXT:

Respect
This means that we treat ourselves, other people and property with care and consideration. We treat other people as we like to be treated.

Responsibility
This means that we know and do the right thing. We follow things through to the end. We do our fair share. We are accountable for our actions. We are honest.

Resilience
This means that we bounce back. We learn from our mistakes and we persevere.

Enacting our Philosophy:

At Ararat North Primary School, our Vision, Mission, Values and Objectives will sit at the centre of:

- our school documents and publications
- our teaching and learning programs
- work with the School Council and the community
- our school initiatives
- our organisational structures and practices
- our internal and external interactions

Our school operates by asking a fundamental question, “Is this work or process in line with the school vision, values and beliefs?” This question guides and directs the practice of all leaders in the school. A detailed list of policies will substantiate this mechanism and regular evaluation processes will be in place to measure performance in all areas of the school with respect to the implementation of the vision and values of the school.

IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR VALUES:

At Ararat North Primary School we will develop values education as an umbrella curriculum concept, rather than as a program, an event or an addition to the curriculum. Our core values will underpin our day to day school lives. However, in order for this to become embedded, we will implement the following strategies:

School council approved this policy on [insert date].
- Establish and consistently use a common and shared values language across the school.
- Explicitly teach our core values so that students know what the values mean and how the values are lived.
- Implicitly model values and explicitly foster the modelling of values.
- Use values education to consciously foster intercultural understanding, social cohesion and social inclusion.
- Celebrate successes in adopting our values.

Values and the Whole School Community:

We believe that sharing our values work with parents/carers is essential in supporting the children in their journey through school. We will regularly communicate our core school values work with parents/carers. We ask all parents and carers to behave according to our set of school values when visiting and being involved in our school. For example at pick up and drop off times, when entering the classroom, during any discussion or meeting, during concerts and assemblies and at all school events.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Ararat North 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
- 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
• 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

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

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• 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Student Wellbeing and Engagement policies, Mandatory Reporting, Student Safety and other relevant policies are available on the school website at www.anps.vic.edu.au.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on September 2018 and is scheduled for review in September 2020.

School council approved this policy on [insert date].