**STATEMENT OF VALUES AND   
SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY**

**Help for non-English speakers**

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact [insert school contact details].

## **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**

Wodonga West Children’s Centre 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 Wodonga West Children’s Centre 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.
* Explicitly tecah how to demonstrate our school values in a variety of settings as part of our School Wide Positive Behaviour School program.

## **Vision**

Wodonga West Children’s Centre’s vision is “Learning for Living” and everything we do is designed to develop lifelong learners.

## **Mission & Philosphy**

Wodonga West Children’s Centre School’s Mission & Philosophy is detailed below;

*Our Aim is to be consistent and provide a supportive learning environment where all children are in an engaging classroom. Students at WWPS will be equipped for life through the teaching and growth of life skills. The development of strong interpersonal skills, will be rewarded with positive relationships, warmth and friendships. The confidence and resilience this fosters, will enrich the belief, that each individual is special: a unique and valued member of our school community.*

*Being organised, and yet flexible both mentally and physically, will allow Wodonga West students to tackle academic skills in literacy, numeracy, the arts, and knowledge of the wider world. An environment rich in ICT resources will support the students in their journey. Developing a global knowledge, and an empathy for cultures, will enrich the mind and heart. Students will be well rounded and immersed in all forms of learning. This will lead to an understanding of personal strengths and development of thinking skills, thus empowering the creativity of individuals to face life’s challenges.*

*In an ever changing world, an awareness and passion for the environment will be fostered. Our students will develop healthy minds and bodies through a balance of active, passive and creative activities. Students will achieve success through developing respect, responsibility and cooperation which will allow them to make connections with the world.*

## **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.

## **Values**

Wodonga West Children’s Centre Values are:

Be safe

Be respectful

Be a learner

Our school community have been committed to implementing the School Wide Positive Behaviour approach (SWPBS) since 2012 as a way to reinforce and support the teaching of these values in our School.

These 3 values form the basis of everything we do. This means we continually teach, model, practise, acknowledge and correct all behaviour. All students & staff, in all settings follow these behavioural expectations.

The School Wide Positive Behaviour Program is underpinned by the following:

* A broad range of systemic and individualized strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes while preventing problem behaviour with all students
* The redesign of environments to achieve success
* The teaching of specific behaviour expectations, not relating to problem behaviour
* Innovating and considering what we will do differently to teach children about appropriate social and learning behaviour
* About looking for and rewarding appropriate and positive behaviour
* A statement of purpose, behaviour expectations and a behaviour matrix that the whole school uses to teach students about appropriate behaviour

The School Wide Positive Behaviour Program is driven by:

* Data collected from the classroom and from the yard
* Buy-in from staff, students, families
* Evaluation
* Environmental change
* Effective working systems
* Practise

## **Behavioural expectations**

Wodonga West Children’s Centre 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](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.vit.vic.edu.au%2F__data%2Fassets%2Fpdf_file%2F0018%2F35604%2FCode-of-Conduct-2016.pdf&data=04%7C01%7CDanica.Murfett%40education.vic.gov.au%7Cb43d1afd7ebb473c81e508d981873340%7Cd96cb3371a8744cfb69b3cec334a4c1f%7C0%7C0%7C637683239979128787%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=heJJ%2BZ8GEARC17dMHn1KSHr7h71dVWpSqPJTehqiq0c%3D&reserved=0).

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, 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](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/Respectful-Behaviours-within-the-School-Community-Policy.aspx) and our Respect for School Staff 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 & Compass Portal.
* Included in staff induction processes
* Included in staff handbook/manual
* 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](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/work-related-violence-schools/policy)
* [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/Respectful-Behaviours-within-the-School-Community-Policy.aspx)

Wodonga West Children’s Centre polices:

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

**POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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| Policy last reviewed | 21/8/2023 |
| Approved by | School Council |
| Next scheduled review date | August 2026 |