



We are respectful, responsible, safe learners
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STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

St. Leonards Primary School is committed to providing a high- quality education that allows all students to achieve their personal best in a caring and supportive environment.

At St Leonards Primary School our mission is to develop future capable learners who will become great adults. Our values are respect, responsibility and safety.

We will achieve our mission by nurturing students to:

- want to learn, know how to learn and be engaged and have agency in learning
- know that anything is possible
- be creative, curious and confident
- be happy, caring and inclusive with a strong sense of community
- be well-rounded
- have high expectations of themselves and others

To achieve our mission and vision SLPS will:

- be an inclusive learning community
- provide a broad range of learning experiences
- provide engaging learning programs
- have clear values and expectations – learning, responsibility, respect, safety

Student Voice is a priority. We actively encourage all students to share their thoughts and ideas in an environment underpinned by trust and respect. We want students to offer realistic suggestions for the good of the whole and accept responsibility not only for what they say but for what needs to be done.

Our children learn academically, emotionally and socially in a thriving supportive learning community. We value connections with families. Learning happens at home, outdoors and the digital world provides learning and communication opportunities anywhere anytime. A partnership between school, family and community provides the best learning opportunities for children.

We nurture our children to become St Leonards Learners so that they have skills knowledge and dispositions for the future. All children learn and develop the St Leonards Learners values and strengths. Our learning community is symbolised by the St Leonards pier and the animals that live underneath represent our St Leonards Learner strengths and values:

Respect ***Responsibility*** ***Safety***
Collaborators ***Communicators*** ***Researchers***
Thinkers ***Self-Managers***

St Leonards Primary School is a learning community where students, teachers and community members are all actively engaged in learning. Our role is to lay the foundations for lifelong learning. We continuously strive for excellence in education for all, through a focus on the student, relevant curriculum, quality teaching and a supportive school environment.

We endeavour to:

- Nurture all students to become St Leonards Learners; inquirers who have voice and agency in their own learning.
- Provide personalised learning that enables each student to succeed and challenge themselves to achieve their personal best
- Develop an inclusive learning community which includes students, staff, school families, local and online communities
- Create a happy, safe and supportive environment for every member of our learning community
- Assist children to become highly literate and numerate and competent with technology
- Provide a balanced holistic education that nurtures the whole child and provides opportunities to learn from lots of experiences in many different settings, especially beyond the classroom
- Empower students so they have voice and agency and can take increasing responsibility for their own learning and wellbeing
- Provide a sequential, stimulating, rigorous learning program that includes all key learning areas and capabilities in the Victorian Curriculum <http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>

St Leonards Primary 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 St Leonards Primary 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, 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 your values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsfeed and social media
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

St Leonards Primary 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
- 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
- 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Bullying Prevention Policy, Social Media and Digital Platforms Policy, Complaints Policy and Respect for School Staff Policy

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last reviewed and approved by School Council in March 2021 and is scheduled for review in March 2024.