

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY POLICY

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

Tecoma 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 Tecoma 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 mission, vision, objective, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website, our staff induction handbook and in our enrolment/transition packs.

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

- display posters, signage and our coloured giant pencils, that promote your values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide Student of the Week awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

MISSION

At Tecoma Primary School our mission is to ensure that your family's association with our school is a rich and rewarding one and that you take away many relationships and happy memories from your time here.

At Tecoma Primary School we have a code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children. This has been put into place to ensure appropriate behaviours with children are enforced in the school, to help protect children from abuse.

At Tecoma Primary School we have a commitment to zero tolerance of child abuse. Staff at our school have a responsibility to respond to the safety, care and welfare of students, in all school environments and outside of school hours. This is a commitment which is led by our School Council, School Leadership team, all staff and is shared openly and transparently with all members of our school community.

Tecoma Primary School prides itself on providing a caring and stimulating learning environment for all children. Developing the whole child is a major school focus; preparing our students to take their place successfully in further education and adult life; providing each child with the foundations for a confident future.

This is reflected in the vision and values statement we developed in 2008.

VISION

At Tecoma Primary School we strive to create a responsive, cooperative, innovative teaching and learning environment. We aim for development of the whole person as a committed life-long learner, who embraces self-development, achievement and contributes to their community.

VALUES

Our School Values are:

- Respect
- Integrity
- Community
- Creativity / Innovation
- Learning
- Personal Best

The school community is actively involved in supporting the school and its programs; in turn the school works very closely with its community to develop programs of mutual support.

The strength of Tecoma Primary School comes from the strong, close links between each of us.

OBJECTIVES

Tecoma Primary School has the responsibility of providing a secure, supportive and positive teaching and learning environment. We aim for development of the whole person as a committed life-long learner, who embraces self-development, achievement and contributes to their community.

In providing for the physical, social and emotional needs of all students, the school seeks to develop the characteristics of good citizenship.

Here at Tecoma we:-

- Encourage students to develop self-discipline and a sense of self-worth, to respect the rights and feelings of others and to take responsibility for their own actions;
- Ensure that all students feel safe, secure and confident to seek support within the school environment;
- Encourage students to be responsible for their personal appearance and cleanliness, the tidiness of the classroom, corridors and grounds, to care for school equipment and to be punctual in school routines.
- Teach social skills to enable the children to be accepted, resilient, valued, make friends and effectively solve interpersonal problems;
- Provide students, staff and parents with a clearly understood, accessible and consistent student welfare structure, based on the Assertive Discipline Model and Restorative Practices. The major focus of Assertive Discipline is encouraging and rewarding the most appropriate behaviour thereby, encouraging the child to choose this form of behaviour, while inappropriate behaviour is discouraged through the use of consequences set up at the beginning of each year in consultation between

students and teachers. At the beginning of the school year the students and teachers work together to establish classroom 'norms of behaviour', which are explicitly taught, practiced, and consistently reinforced. Through this approach firm, fair, clear and concise acceptable behaviours are developed in the classroom; as well as an established set of principles for addressing any unacceptable student behaviour.

Restorative Practice sees misconduct not necessarily as rule breaking, but as a violation against people and relationships. It focuses on modifying behaviours that undermine positive relationships. At Tecoma Primary School we use **Restorative Practices** when there has been a problem that needs resolving. It allows discussion in a way that gives everyone involved an opportunity to contribute and feel valued.

The thinking curriculum; that is getting our children to understand how they learn and to take responsibility for their learning, is a major focus of curriculum planning at Tecoma. Our staff have a day together in their level teams to plan their curriculum for the coming term.

Our assessment and reporting is linked into our teaching programs with written reports twice a year and parent teacher meetings at the start and middle of the year.

Strategic Plan:

The school undertook a school review in 2015. This led to the following school goals (as outlined in our Strategic Plan - 2016-2019):

- To support student learning growth in all areas of Literacy and Numeracy
- To support student engagement through empowering students to be lifelong learners
- To nurture a supportive learning community which promotes health and wellbeing
- To effectively manage school resources to ensure ongoing school improvement

Over these 4 years our focus was to:

- Build teacher capacity to support deep understanding of highly effective learning strategies and the curriculum to support student learning growth.
- Use data to identify a student's point of need and offer learning opportunities which effectively cater to their learning needs
- Establish and implement a structured curriculum quality assurance process based on quality criteria which has student learning at the centre.
- Establish and implement whole school measures of student engagement and support shared understanding and assessment of engagement.
- Maintain and enhance the implementation of the 'KidsMatter' program.

In 2019 our school will be undertaking our next school review, and, as part of this process new goals will be identified to replace the ones listed above.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Tecoma 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
- 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 (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:

- 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*.

The school philosophy will be enacted through:

- Community consultation, newsletters and forums
- Staff professional development and induction processes
- Ongoing curriculum development
- Parent and family support structures.

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