



# Statement Of Values and School Philosophy

## Policy

Policy review team members: Amy Hille, Education Committee: Dean Charge, Deb Gardener, Jane Herring, Carolyn Smith, Kim Wheeler, Hayley Gregory and Michelle Polley

This policy was last ratified by the School Council on Monday 2 May 2022.

### 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

Mt Eliza 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 Mt Eliza 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.

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
- acknowledge students who actively demonstrate the values in a variety of ways
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

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### School Profile

Mt Eliza Primary School is located south-east of Melbourne at the northern end of the Mornington Peninsula. The School comprises

2.5 hectares of attractive gardens in a native treed setting. Excellent sporting facilities, including two multi-purpose facilities (the Building Education Revolution 'BER' gym facility plus our original basketball stadium/hall), external courts and turf oval. There are extensive play spaces, adventure playgrounds and passive areas with shade cover.

Mt Eliza Primary School is 150 years old but moved to its present site in 1929 when a one-roomed rural school was moved from Mordialloc as a facility in which to educate an increasing number of students. This building is now known as our 'Old School House' which stands proudly at the front of the school. The building was saved from demolition in 2004 by a group of hard working and passionate members of our school community. In 2009 our BER multipurpose centre was finished. This began our journey into the world of the 'Kitchen Garden', utilising the extensive kitchen facilities and creating garden spaces. Over the years, this program has provided our students with the capability and experience to grow their own foods and the skills and desire to create healthy and delicious meals from fresh seasonal produce. In 2021 we began our partnership with OzHarvest to become a FEAST program school, with our launch into the program occurring in 2022. Our newest building was completed in early 2019 which replaced our oldest wing at the school.

Since its inception, Mt Eliza Primary School has been synonymous with a strong sense of community spirit. In partnership with our community, we have developed a culture that reflects our five values: Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Connectedness and Challenge. These values are the cornerstone of what we do; they support our approach to learning and are key to the way in which we develop respectful relationships across the school.

## **MEPS Motto - 'Together we grow'**

We believe in a holistic view of education that equips our students with the attributes that they will need to lead purposeful and fulfilling lives, where social and emotional skills are as important as academic and professional skills. In addition to a strong focus on the building blocks of learning, literacy and numeracy, our students learn 'how to learn' and they are guided from their first days of school in the development of communication skills. Our programs deliberately promote and engage students in:

- How to communicate with each other
- Being kind to ourselves and one another
- How to be part of a team
- Understanding that we are all different
- How to support one another in the collective learning journey

Spending a day in our school demonstrates the varied and dynamic life of our learning community; one full of challenge, choice and opportunity, designed to see our students grow, flourish, and discover their abilities and passions in life.

## **MEPS Vision**

A community connected in kindness through relationships, learning and values.

## **MEPS Mission**

To improve the quality of student outcomes and teaching practice by:

- Promoting and maintaining healthy and productive relationships
- Developing a balance between explicit teaching and guided inquiry to build the capacity of learners; and
- Creating a culture of collective responsibility.

## **MEPS Values**

As a School we value:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Resilience
- Connectedness, and
- Challenge

## **MEPS Philosophy**

We believe that all children have the capacity to be competent, capable and sophisticated thinkers, with endless ways and opportunities to express themselves.



## Behavioural Expectations

Mt Eliza Primary School 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 Codes of Conduct and Ethics](#).

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](#) and [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](#) and our [Respect for School Staff Policy](#).

## Unacceptable 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](#)).

Unacceptable 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
- 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.

Unacceptable 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 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.

## Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- 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](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)

Mt Eliza Primary School policies:

- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- [Inclusion and Diversity Policy](#)
- [Bullying Prevention Policy](#)
- [Parent Complaints Policy](#)

## Policy Review and Renewal

This Statement of Values & School Philosophy Policy is current as of April, 2022 and is to be reviewed every 3 - 4 years.

Approved by: Dean Charge, School Council President



Signature:

Date: 02/05/22



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact our office, 03 9787 1385.