



# Gormandale & District Primary School

## Statement of Values and School Philosophy



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact GDPS on 5197 7444 or [gormandale.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:gormandale.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

### 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.

Gormandale & District 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 Gormandale & District 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, objectives, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website, in our staff induction handbook, and in our enrolment packs.



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

- display posters and signage that promote the 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.

## **Gormandale & District Primary School's vision, mission, values and objectives**

### **Vision**

Gormandale & District Primary School is an inclusive school that strives for educational excellence. Our aim is to develop respectful, responsible and resilient students who are ready to be successful, confident learners in the community. We encourage our students and families to practise the core values of the school: safe, respectful and a learner.

### **MISSION**

Is to enable all learners' access to learning through the provision of:










- Highly effective teachers and school leadership, focussed on improving student outcomes, through their commitment to ongoing professional development, quality teaching, evidence-based practices, coaching and mentoring and collaboration,
- Creating a safe and supportive learning environment,
- Cohesive learning programs aligned to year level content and achievement standards informed by the Victorian curriculum,
- a quality inclusive learning environment that is responsive to student voice,
- enriching, engaging resources,
- opportunities for community and parents to openly participate in learning and decision making,

### **Objective**

Gormandale & District Primary School's objective is to ensure that our students leave our school having received high quality teaching in every classroom, every day. This will ensure that they are well prepared to be successful and confident learners who display the values of safe, respectful and a learner.

## Values

Our school values **'Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a Learner'** underpin everything we do. At GDPS, we set out clear, consistent, high expectations. We teach and model these expectations to our students every day and positively acknowledge our students when displaying our values. Our expected behaviours matrix shows students what our values look like in each of our classroom settings.

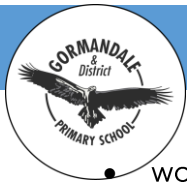
 <b>MATRIX OF EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS</b>						
	LEARNING AREAS	PLAY AREAS	TECHNOLOGY	TRANSITIONS	TOILETS	ALWAYS
<b>BE SAFE</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We use furniture and equipment appropriately (for its intended use)</li> <li>We put things back where they belong</li> <li>We walk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We wear our hats</li> <li>We use equipment correctly</li> <li>We follow the rules of the game</li> <li>We stay within designated areas</li> <li>We sit down to eat</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We only access sites we have permission to use</li> <li>We keep our personal details private</li> <li>We report anything inappropriate to an adult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We walk</li> <li>We look where we are going</li> <li>We stay together</li> <li>We wait for the teacher</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We let an adult know when we are going to the toilet</li> <li>We flush the toilet and then wash our hands</li> <li>We don't take food into the toilets</li> <li>We tell the teacher if the toilets are unsafe or dirty</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We care for others and ourselves</li> <li>We respect personal space and privacy</li> <li>We care for property</li> <li>We use manners</li> <li>We are inclusive</li> <li>We seek help when needed</li> <li>We listen and follow instructions</li> <li>We use appropriate voice</li> <li>We are on time</li> <li>We take hats off inside</li> <li>We keep our hands to ourselves</li> <li>We wear our school uniform with pride</li> <li>We wait our turn</li> <li>We always speak kindly</li> <li>We are Upstanders - you called out behaviour that is not respectful.</li> </ul>
<b>BE RESPECTFUL</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We allow others to learn</li> <li>We share and take turns</li> <li>We co-operate (work together)</li> <li>We listen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We put rubbish in the bin</li> <li>We share equipment</li> <li>We return equipment before lining up</li> <li>We share spaces fairly</li> <li>We look after our garden and environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We take care of equipment and move appropriately with them</li> <li>We write things that are considerate of other peoples feelings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We maintain personal space</li> <li>We are quiet</li> <li>We hold the door open for others</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We respect the privacy of others</li> <li>We keep the toilets clean</li> <li>We leave when we have finished</li> <li>We use toilets and taps responsibly</li> </ul>	
<b>BE A LEARNER</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have a go</li> <li>We understand mistakes are a part of learning</li> <li>We are ready to learn</li> <li>We ask questions if we don't understand something</li> <li>We support others</li> <li>We reflect on our learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We listen to the bells</li> <li>We help others to learn the rules of the game</li> <li>We try to resolve problems on our own or with the help of the yard duty teacher</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We use digital technology for assigned tasks only</li> <li>We use the internet to research and learn new skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We arrive at class on time</li> <li>We are in our designated space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We remember to use the toilet at break times</li> <li>We return to class quickly and quietly</li> </ul>	

## Behavioural Expectations

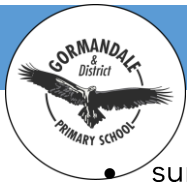
Gormandale & District Primary School acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture. We acknowledge a shared responsibility to create a positive learning environment for the children and young people at our school.

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
  - ensure all parents/carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the Department's Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy
  - 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 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, in line with the Department's Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy.
  - 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
- being violent or threatening 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.

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, Bullying Prevention Policy and our Behaviour Guidance 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**

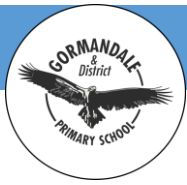
This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

## **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- Respectful Behaviours within the School Community
- Respectful Workplaces
- Parent Complaints
- Work-Related Violence in Schools



## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	December 2024
Approved by	Principal & GDPS School council. December 2024
Next scheduled review date	December 2027