

South Gippsland Specialist School

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:

South Gippsland Specialist 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 South Gippsland Specialist 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, 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 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.
- Teach and practice our schools expected behaviours that demonstrate our school values

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The South Gippsland Specialist School is committed to the provision of quality educational programs, teamwork, positive communication, respect for self and others and providing an inclusive environment for all. We work together to provide quality learning opportunities for students that assist them to reach their full potential academically, socially, emotionally and physically.

Our school encourages staff and students to take pride in themselves and their school, to have high expectations and to value learning.

The South Gippsland Specialist School community will:

- Respect self and others.
- Provide a safe, challenging and creative school environment.

References:

- Have a positive attitude toward learning.
- Encourage self-confidence and high self-esteem.
- Encourage and develop student independence.
- Provide care and support for each student.
- Raise self-esteem through successful experiences.
- Help students to achieve their personal potential.
- Show students that they can be a worthwhile member of their community.
- Provide an inclusive environment for all.
- Encourage community acceptance of disability and difference.
- Utilize current educational technologies.
- Implement positive open communication.
- Work collaboratively and contribute to the learning of others.

VISION

The South Gippsland Specialist School's philosophy is to provide diverse and engaging programs that are align with the Victorian Curriculum. We focus on developing life-long learners by fostering student's talents. We recognize the importance of student welfare and ensure its integration into all aspects of the curriculum. Students are encouraged to develop positive community relationships in a safe learning environment that supports them to be contributing members of their community. Only when students are happy and secure can meaningful learning take place.

MISSION

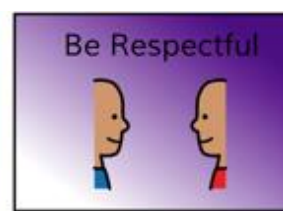
South Gippsland Specialist School is committed to developing our school community to be safe, friendly and respectful learners.

VALUES

The South Gippsland Specialist School operates within a strong framework of values and behaviours based on Respect, Learning, Safety, Teamwork and Inclusion.

All members of the school community will be treated with respect and dignity regardless of their sex, gender identity, socio economic status, cultural background, sexual preference.

Be Friendly Be Safe Be a Learner Be Respectful



BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

South Gippsland Specialist 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

References:

- 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 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.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last updated on October 2019 and is scheduled for review in October 2021