



# Big Hill 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 Big Hill Primary School on 03 5447 7022 or [big.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:big.hill.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.

### POLICY

Big Hill 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 Big Hill 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 and our staff induction handbook.

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,
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the Values,
- discuss our Values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

### Vision

Our school's vision is: **TOGETHER WE SUPPORT A COLLABORATIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY THAT ENCOURAGES HONESTY, LEADERSHIP, TEAMWORK, CREATIVITY AND KINDNESS.** As part of our school culture, all students work within our 3 core school Values: Respect, Responsible and Safe. At Big Hill PS, we want not only academically skilled individuals, but well-balanced, resilient and social students ready for any challenge life presents them.

### Mission

Big Hill Primary School is committed to educational excellence and providing children with the opportunity to learn to the best of their ability.

## OBJECTIVE

Our school's objectives are considered as part of the 4 yearly strategic planning process and reflected in the goals listed in our current School Strategic Plan (SSP). We also develop an Annual Implementation Plan to operationalise the goals and key improvement strategies contained in our SSP.

## Values

Big Hill Primary School's Values are Respect, Responsible and Safe.

Big Hill Primary School's Statement of Values and School Philosophy is integral to the work that we do and is the foundation of our school community. Students, staff and members of our school community are encouraged to live and demonstrate our core values of respect, responsibility and safety at every opportunity.

VALUE	MEANING	BEHAVIOURS What does it look like?
RESPECT	Respect means... Listening to and accepting the views and actions of others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Looking after things,</li><li>- Being nice to others,</li><li>- Looking after ourselves,</li><li>- Accepting differences in others,</li><li>- Being friendly and positive to others,</li><li>- Being honest to yourself and to others.</li></ul>
RESPONSIBLE	Responsibility means... Staying in control of your behaviour and actions. Being the best that you can be.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Taking care of belongings,</li><li>- Taking care of our environment,</li><li>- Behaving well,</li><li>- Completing tasks without being asked – eg: change reader, finish work on time,</li><li>- Completing all tasks to the best of your ability,</li><li>- Do the right thing,</li><li>- Including others in play,</li><li>- Sharing with others.</li></ul>
SAFE	Safe means... Looking after ourselves and others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Looking after others,</li><li>- Being positive and staying healthy.</li></ul>

## Behavioural expectations

Big Hill 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 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, 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:

- being violent or threatening violence of any kind, including physically intimidating behaviour such as aggressive hand gestures or invading another person’s personal space,
- 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.

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.

## 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 as an annual reference in the school’s 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	March 2023
Approved by	School Council – April 2023
Next scheduled review date	Before April 2027