

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Help for non-English speakers



If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Statewide Vision Resource Centre on 03 9841 0204 or svrc@education.vic.gov.au

This Statewide Vision Resource Centre policy is available in braille hard copy and etext format from our administration upon request.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of Statewide Vision Resource Centre community and explain the vision, mission, and objectives of our centre.

POLICY

Statewide Vision Resource Centre is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. Our centre recognises the importance of the partnership between our centre 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 environment for our students.

The programs and teaching at Statewide Vision Resource Centre 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 centre's vision, mission, objective, values, and expectations of our centre's 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 your values in our centre
- celebrate our values in our Bulletin
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

Vision

Statewide Vision Resource Centre vision is to ensure inclusion and achievement for all learners who are blind or have low vision.

Mission

Statewide Vision Resource Centre's mission is to Providing leadership in blind and low vision education, enabling access, inclusion, and lifelong learning.

Objective

Our Statewide Vision Resource Centre's objectives are considered as part of the 2 yearly strategic planning process and reflected in the goals listed in our current Statewide Vision Resource Centre Strategic Plan (SSP). We also develop an Annual Report to operationalise the goals and key improvement strategies contained in our SSP.

Values

Statewide Vision Resource Centre values are Statewide Vision Resource Centre is committed to Department of Education's (DE) values of responsiveness, integrity, impartiality, accountability, respect, leadership, and human rights. These values shape our work every day, strengthening our capacity to meet the needs of learners who are blind or have low vision, together with their teachers, families, and communities.

Responsiveness – We respond in a timely way with our best work

Integrity – We are honest, ethical, and transparent

Impartiality – We behave in the best interests of the public by making fair and objective decisions

Accountability – We hold ourselves and others to account for the work that we do

Respect – We value others and accept their differences

Leadership – We are genuine, supportive and do the right thing

Human Rights – We uphold and respect the rights of others

Behavioural expectations

Statewide Vision Resource Centre 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 centre and Department policies and the Victorian Public Service Code of Conduct and Values. Teaching staff also adhere to the [Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#).

Students are supported by Statewide Vision Resource Centre staff to meet expected standards of behaviour as outlined in our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Inclusion and Diversity Policy, 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.

Statewide Vision Resource Centre acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on Statewide Vision Resource Centre 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 Team Leaders, we will:

- model positive behaviour and effective leadership
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of our 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 Assistant Principal and/or Leading Teacher in the event we anticipate or face any tension or challenging behaviours from parents
- treat all members of our 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 Support Skills Program on time, every Friday for instruction
- take an interest in our child's school and learning
- work with the Statewide Vision Resource Centre to achieve the best outcomes for our child
- communicate constructively with the school and use expected processes and protocols when

raising concerns

- support Statewide Vision Resource Centre staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students
- follow Statewide Vision Resource Centre's processes for communication with staff and making complaints
- treat all Statewide Vision Resource Centre 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 our community
- comply with and model Statewide Vision Resource Centre values
- behave in a safe and responsible manner
- respect ourselves, other members of our community and environment
- actively participate in Support Skills Program
- not disrupt the learning of others and make the most of our educational opportunities.

As community members, we will:

- model positive behaviour to our community
- treat other members of our community with respect
- support Statewide Vision Resource Centre staff to maintain a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students
- utilise Statewide Vision Resource Centre's processes for communication with staff and submitting complaints.

Unreasonable behaviours

Schools are not public places, and the Assistant 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 Statewide Vision Resource Centre staff, parents, carers, students or members of our community will not be tolerated at centre, or during Statewide Vision Resource Centre 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 Statewide Vision Resource Centre.

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 Assistant Principal.

At the Assistant 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 Statewide Vision Resource Centre activities exclusion from school grounds or attendance at Statewide Vision Resource Centre activities
- reports to Victoria Police
- legal action.

Inappropriate student behaviour will be managed in according with Statewide Vision Resource Centre’s *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy* and *Bullying Prevention Policy*.

Our *Statement of Values and School Philosophy* ensures that everyone in our centre’s community will be treated with fairness and respect. In turn, we will strive to create a centre that is inclusive and safe, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on Statewide Vision Resource Centre’s website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)

Statewide Vision Resource Centre polices:

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

POLICY REVIEWS AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	Approved by	Next scheduled review date
February 2023	Principal	February 2026