# STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

## 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

Echuca Twin Rivers 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 Echuca Twin Rivers 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 will be 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 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

Echuca Twin Rivers Primary School's vision is:

- Engaged, confident students who are motivated and excited to learn and who love learning.
- Positive, professional staff committed to sharing their passion for learning with the students and the wider community.
- Innovative curriculum that values diversity.
- A community that values strong partnerships between home, school and community.
- A safe and stimulating learning environment which is creative and fun.

## MISSION

Echuca Twin Rivers Primary School's mission is to create a community minded learning environment where everyone has the opportunity to learn to the best of their ability.

## OBJECTIVE

Echuca Twin Rivers Primary School's objective is for students and staff to continually learn through seeking best practice, innovation, reflection, celebration of our achievements, having a safe environment and being open to learning. Echuca Twin Rivers sets high expectations of our learners, and those learners are fully supported in their journey.

## VALUES

Echuca Twin Rivers Primary School's values are Respect, Inclusion, Resilience, (Academic Excellence) and Responsibility.

**Respect**: We endeavour to be respectful of all members of our school community. We cooperate with others, and we are honest, fair and open in the ways we interact. We support each other by being encouraging, listening attentively, giving assistance readily, and showing empathy and concern for everyone. We give and receive feedback with sincerity, and we commit to team decisions.

**Inclusion**: At Echuca Twin Rivers Primary School every stakeholder is considered and informed about what is going on and there is a sharing of ideas, resources and information with an acknowledgement of the success of each person. Everyone is encouraged to work at their personal best in a safe environment where everyone practices integrity.

**Resilience**: At Echuca Twin Rivers Primary School we use challenges to strengthen our ability to cope with unexpected changes and challenges in life. We encourage creative expression, strive to be happy and work with a clear understanding of, and commitment to, diversity to enhance our capacity to deal with these challenges

**Responsibility**: We recognise our actions and make a positive difference.

**Academic Excellence**: At Echuca Twin Rivers Primary School we persist and try our best. Academic Excellence is striving to attain your personal goals, persisting and giving your best effort.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Echuca Twin Rivers 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
- 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.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

Communication with School Staff

Complaints Policy

Visitors Policy

## REVIEW CYCLE

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| Policy last reviewed | 29 July 2026 |
| Approved by | Principal, Consultative, School Council |
| Next scheduled review date | July 2028 |