



Botanic Ridge 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 Botanic Ridge Primary School on 03 5992 7900 or botanic.ridge.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

Botanic Ridge 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 Botanic Ridge 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 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 our values in our school (SWPBS, Hour of Power)
- celebrate our values in our communication to the community via social media and Compass
- provide Botanic Brilliance awards and recognition in the form of Power Ups for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

1. Vision

Botanic Ridge Primary School's vision is to inspire and empower all children to learn and achieve through building curiosity and collaboration in a challenging and supportive learning environment that inspires growth.

To encourage resilience and a positive self-image, with a focus on respecting ourselves, others, and our world.

Mission

Botanic Ridge Primary School's mission is to; Create a positive climate for learning where we will develop independent learners and problem solvers through explicit teaching and self-directed learning. To lead the development of dynamic relationships through collaboration, high expectations and opportunity for student and community voice and agency in learning. Where we will develop independent learners and problem solvers through explicit instruction and self-directed learning, who design, develop, and assess their learning through opportunities encompassing voice, agency, and leadership. To develop a viable and rich curriculum that is informed by the Strategic plan, promotes shared evidence based pedagogical approaches and is bound by rigorous evaluation embedded in a cycle of inquiry. Where there is a focus on teacher precision, quality, and consistency of practice, while also fostering differentiation based on student needs. To create a climate for learning that supports an appreciation of different cultures and supports children to deepen their understanding of, and respect for, differences through respectful curiosity and their friendships with other children. A learning community where we teach our children about our environment, Australia, and its past, inclusive of our indigenous people. Our children will learn about the importance of behaviours that demonstrate, respect and understanding of all people who inhabit our land and our planet.

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.

Botanic Ridge Primary School's objective is to:

- Ensure all children leave our school with a practical understanding of the curriculum.
- Provide the learner with opportunities to acquire literacy, numeracy, social and emotional, creativity and communication skills, develop the ability for critical thinking and logical judgement.

2. Values

Botanic Ridge Primary School's values are Respect, Responsibility, Safety and Growth

We use **respect** – respecting ourselves, creating respectful relationships with our peers, teachers and family, respecting our land as well as having a cultural curiosity about other ethnicities.

We are **safe** – taking care of our minds and bodies, making choices that protect us and others, valuing our online safety through digital diligence.

We are **responsible** – making independent decisions, fulfilling our responsibilities, allowing integrity to drive our actions.

We value **growth** – believing that with a mighty mind we can always learn or grow, knowing questions and interest spark positive change in our thinking and abilities.

3. Behavioural expectations

Botanic Ridge Primary School 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 school 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 school staff to meet expected standards of behaviour as outlined in our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Inclusion and Diversity Policy, and 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](#).

Botanic Ridge 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 in line with the BRPS School Wide Positive Behaviour framework
- communicate politely, respectfully and in a timely manner 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 in line with the BRPS School Wide Positive Behaviour framework
- 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 children
- 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:

- adhere to positive behaviour expectations in line with the BRPS School wide positive behaviour framework.

- 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.

4. 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 accordance 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 in staff handbook/manual
- 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	2/2025
Approved by	School Council – 24/3/2025
Next scheduled review date	Before 2/2029 – noting a 4-year review cycle