

STATEMENT OF VALUES & SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact Tony Bellette at tony.bellette@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

This policy represents the values of Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre (Blackwood) and explains the vision and mission of Blackwood.

POLICY

Blackwood is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. Blackwood recognises the importance of the partnership between Blackwood and visiting schools to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. We share a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe Blackwood environment for all students.

The teaching and learning programs at Blackwood 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
- 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 school staff induction handbook and enrolment/transition packs.

To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our school community, we:

- reinforce our values through explicit teaching and learning programs
- set & role model high behavioural expectations

BLACKWOOD SPECIAL SCHOOLS OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

1015 Greendale - Trentham Road,
Blackwood, Victoria 3458, Australia

Campus of Frankston Special Development School
Member of Residential Outdoor Schools Association (ROSA)

Post: Post Office, Blackwood, Victoria 3458, Australia

Phone: 03 5368 6768

Email: blackwood.specialschools.oec@education.vic.gov.au

Website: blackwoodssoec.vic.edu.au



VISION

At Blackwood students are 'Learning for Life.' Central to all teaching and learning programs is the development of skills in communication, independence and social competencies.

MISSION

Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre delivers a quality adventure-based curriculum exclusively to students with special needs. Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre engages students to enhance their life skills through participating in lessons that focus on teamwork, resilience and personal challenge.

VALUES

The following values are seen as being central to life at Blackwood and how all members of our Blackwood community should conduct themselves.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Respect | for yourself and others, being kind and learning |
| Caring | for others in our classroom setting, Blackwood and the wider community |
| Sharing | with others, taking turns and working with others |
| Individuality | being the best you can and doing the best you can |

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BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Blackwood acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, families and volunteers can play an important part in setting the tone of Blackwood. We acknowledge a shared responsibility to create a positive learning environment for students at Blackwood.

As principals and school leaders at Blackwood, we will:

- model positive behaviour and effective leadership
- communicate politely and respectfully and in a timely manner with all members of the school community
- work collaboratively to create a school environment where behavioural expectations are clearly defined and upheld across the school
- 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 a high level of care, safety, security and general wellbeing of all students at school
- identify and support students who are or may be at risk as per Child Safe guidelines
- provide individualised learning programs for all students
- work with visiting staff, as well as parents, to understand a student's needs
- respond appropriately when safe and inclusive behaviour is not demonstrated and implement appropriate interventions and sanctions when required
- inform visiting staff, as well as parents of the school's communication and complaints procedures
- listen to and act on the concerns of our families in a timely manner

As teachers and non-teaching school staff, we will:

- model positive behaviour to students
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- proactively engage with visiting staff, as well as parents about student outcomes
- work with visiting staff, as well as parents to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- work collaboratively with visiting staff, as well as 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 visiting staff and/or parents
- treat all members of the school community with respect.

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As visiting staff and families, we will:

- model positive behaviour to our student/s
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- ensure our student/s attends Blackwood Programs on time, every day
- take an interest in our student/s school and learning
- work with the school to achieve the best outcomes for our student/s
- 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 members of the school community with respect.

As students, we will:

- follow school-wide behaviour expectations
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- comply with and model school values
- behave in a safe and responsible manner
- show respect for ourselves, others and the environment
- actively participate in school

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 Blackwood, or during Blackwood programs.

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

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- compromise our alignment with Child Safe values
- using the threat of violence of any kind, including physically intimidating behaviour such as aggressive hand gestures or invading another's personal space
- sending demanding, rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic or derogatory comments
- using 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 or full exclusion from school grounds or 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.

REVIEW CYCLE

Policy last reviewed	July 24
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	July 27

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