



# Bethanga Primary School

## Statement of Schools Values and Philosophy Policy

### 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

Bethanga 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 Bethanga 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, values and expectations of our school community.

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
- explicitly teach the school values through our EQ program
- discuss our values with students in the classroom and yard.

### OUR MISSION

Bethanga Primary School's mission is to provide all students from Bethanga, Bellbridge and beyond with an inspiring and responsive curriculum to promote thinking and encourage curiosity. We nurture individual talents and needs in our setting underpinned by high expectations, quality opportunities and caring personalised attention in order for our children to reach their full academic and social potential.

### OUR VALUES

**Rapport** is a close and harmonious relationship in which the people or groups concerned understand each other's feelings or ideas and communicate well. At Bethanga Primary School, we use the acronym 'RAPPORT' to remind us of our values.

<b>R</b> espect	for ourselves, others, property and the environment
<b>A</b> cceptance	to treat others the way we wish to be treated
<b>P</b> ersistence	we "hang in," when challenged
<b>P</b> ride	in our self, school and community
<b>O</b> ptimism	being hopeful and having a "glass half full" perspective
<b>R</b> esilience	positive self-talk and actions assist us to bounce back from setbacks
<b>T</b> ruth	we self-umpire, we do the right thing because it is the right thing to do

Being a part of the community extending beyond Bethanga Primary School is important to us. We are part of a small, rural community. Our school ensures that it has a positive physical presence in the community and engagement in community events to promote our school and build connections with families and locals.

### **CONNECTIONS**

The three-way partnership between students, parents and teachers is valued and encouraged as an integral part of the total learning process. Underpinned by this partnership we strongly develop and promote essential skills in Literacy, Numeracy and Interpersonal relationships. It is our belief that these are fundamental life skills which are core to the development of active, engaged citizens of the future.

At Bethanga Primary School we aim to have:

#### **Students who:**

- Accept responsibility for their own learning
- Possess a positive self-image
- Can acknowledge, value and celebrate their own learning and that of their peers
- Are willing to take risks in their learning
- Can transfer and associate their learning to everyday life.
- Strive to do their best and be their best at all times
- Respect themselves and each other
- Are inclusive of others and their opinions
- Are honest to themselves and others

#### **Parents and the School Community who:**

- Foster mutual respect and trust between parents and the school
- Are actively involved in a positive partnership with the school in achieving a safe and productive learning environment for all students
- Recognise the importance of the school as a keystone for the life education of its community
- Encourages and values the participation of community members in educational programs at the school
- Are ambassadors for our school always striving to promote it in a positive light.

#### **Teachers who:**

- Communicate honestly and openly about educational issues and student welfare concerns
- Are passionate about teaching
- Provide best practice in teaching
- Strive to provide a broad range of meaningful and engaging learning activities to cater for individual learning styles
- Work together as a team
- Network and communicate with the wider educational community and who acknowledge the changing global community
- Are ambassadors for our school always striving to promote it in a positive light.

### **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 session
- 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.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement*
- *Bullying Prevention Policy*

#### **REVIEW CYCLE**

School Council Approval is not required for this policy however it will be checked for required updates every two years and it will be shared with School Council.

This policy was last reviewed and updated as required February 2021