

Croydon Community School & OPTIONS

Statement of Values and School 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

Croydon Community School & OPTIONS 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/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 Croydon Community School & OPTIONS 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, student handbook and enrolment/transition packs.

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

- display posters that promote our values - Honesty, Excellence, Accountability, Respect & Thankfulness - in each room
- 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

The school's vision is to graduate confident, compassionate, reliable and resilient young people who possess a positive personal philosophy, and a focus on continuing growth.

Mission

The school's mission is to engage each student in learning that nurtures individual interest, encourages active participation in the learning process and develops each student's ability to apply knowledge and skills to real life experiences and challenges.

Objective

The school's objective is to individualise and personalise learning for the benefit of each of our students. We work from the premise of 'one student at a time in a community of learners'.

Values

Croydon Community School & OPTIONS values equity and strong personal qualities equally with the pursuit of academic success. For us, HEART means not only for learners to pursue what they love in their learning, but also some non-negotiable behaviours about how we come together in our school.

♥ HEART

Honest	Excellent	Accountable	Respectful	Thankful
My behaviours				
I tell the truth to myself and others.	I always aim to do my best even when it's tough.	I own my behaviours without excuses or blame.	I value diversity and appreciate differences and similarities.	I acknowledge the growth I have made.
I look after others, their feelings and possessions.	I recognise my strengths and extend them.	I learn from my actions.	I encourage others to be themselves.	I take advantage of opportunities presented to me.
I admit when I need help and ask for it.	I am proud of my achievements.	I make things right when I've made a mistake.	I help others to achieve their goals. I am kind to myself	I am grateful I can make choices for myself.

Behavioural expectations

Croydon Community School & OPTIONS 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/carers 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/carers 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/carers about student outcomes

- work with parents/carers to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- work collaboratively with parents/carers 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/carers
- treat all members of the school community with respect

As parents/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

References:

www.bigpicture.org.au

Please refer to the school's:

- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Camps and Exursions Policy
- Communication Procedures & Schedule Policy
- Curriculum Framework Policy
- Inclusion & Diversity Policy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Vision, Mission, Values Policy
- Visitors Policy
- Volunteers Policy
- Child Safe Standards

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy, last ratified by School Council on February 25, 2019, will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (no current DET A-Z Index reference).