

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT POLICY

*The Currajong School takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is fully committed to ensuring that its strategies, policies, procedures, and practices meet all **Child Safe Standards as specified in Ministerial Order No. 870 (2015)***

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Currajong School is committed to providing a positive and therapeutic school experience for children presenting with significant social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. The educational program at our school has been designed to meet the needs of these young students, with social-emotional learning as an integral component of the curriculum.

The Currajong School operates within the Positive Behaviour Support approach, where learning is understood developmentally, and all behaviour is viewed as communication. The classroom offers a safe base for vulnerable children whose complex social and emotional needs have become a barrier to both their learning and their wellbeing. With the nurture approach, students' social and emotional development and learning is supported and enhanced, and the opportunity provided for them to reach their greatest potential.

Our school operates by asking a fundamental question, "Is this work or process in line with the school vision, mission, values and beliefs?" This question guides and directs the practice of all staff in the school. The vision of the school will sit at the centre of our focus and there will be expectations about all work aligning with the vision. Regular evaluation processes will be in place to measure performance in all areas of the school with respect to the implementation of the vision and values of the school.

ENACTMENT OF SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

At The Currajong School, all documentation will reflect the set of practices of the school. This includes organisational structures, teaching and learning practices and programs, internal and external interactions, School Board and community programs. A detailed list of school policies sits within this framework as part of VRQA quality assurance requirements.

The belief that all students can achieve high standards transforms nearly everything about the way we approach schooling. An organised structure of attributes, principles and understandings expressed in the design of our curriculum amplifies the

possibilities for long range planning, short term preparation and clear communication.

The Currajong 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 Principal and school leaders we will:

- Model positive behaviour and effective leadership in line with our shared values and expectations matrix
- Communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- Work collaboratively to create a school environment where respectful and safe conduct is expected of everyone
- Behave in a manner consistent with the standards of our professions and meet core responsibilities to provide an inclusive, safe and orderly environment
- Plan, implement and monitor arrangements to ensure the care, safety, security and general wellbeing of all students in attendance at the school is protected
- 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 inclusive, safe or orderly behaviour is demonstrated and implement appropriate interventions and sanctions when required
- Make known to parents/carers the school's communication and complaints procedures
- Ask any person who is acting in an offensive or disorderly 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 and in line with our shared values and expectations matrix
- 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 Leadership in the event that we anticipate or face any tension or challenging behaviours from parents/carers

- Treat all members of the community with respect.

As parents/carers, we will:

- Model positive behaviour to our child in line with our shared values and expectations matrix
- 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 the school staff to maintain a safe environment for all students
- Follow the school's processes for communication with staff and making complaints
- Treat all School Leadership, staff, students and other members of the community with respect.

As students we will:

- Model positive behaviour to other students in line with our shared values and expectations matrix
- 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
- Actively try not to 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 in line with our shared values and expectations matrix
- Treat other members of the community with respect
- Support school staff to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment for all students
- Utilise the school's processes for communication with staff and submitting complaints.

OUR VALUES

The Currajong School makes a commitment to embed the following values across our school community: Respect, Responsibility, Resilience

It is an expectation that our school values are continually at the forefront of everything we do.

OUR VISION

The Currajong School believes in providing an inclusive and engaging environment which enables students to embrace learning and achieve their full potential.

We do this by transforming the lives of children experiencing social, emotional, and behavioural disorders.

OUR MISSION

The Currajong School's mission is to provide a positive and therapeutic school environment for children whose social, emotional, and behavioural needs are unable to be met within mainstream education.

At The Currajong School, we aim to work intensively with children to develop the learning and coping strategies which will allow them to re-enter mainstream education with healthy self-esteem, established work habits, and acceptable behaviours. To achieve this goal, children are treated respectfully as individuals, given responsibility for their own behavioural choices, taught to be resourceful in solving problems, and accepted as valued members of the school community. Children are encouraged at all times to seek positive rather than negative ways of belonging.

We nurture our students to develop self-belief, and a growth mindset that empowers them to live an abundant and successful life.

OUR MORAL PURPOSE

We support students to become confident learners who achieve to their full potential. To accomplish this, we offer an education approach based upon the High Impact Teaching Strategies.

- We support all students to become literate and numerate.
- We foster curiosity by immersing students in problem solving and providing opportunities for invention and innovation.
- We empower students to discover their potential by offering a personalised learning approach, this means educational programs are tailored to individual abilities and accommodate students' interests.
- Our staff work collaboratively, in professional learning communities, to design and deliver education programs that are engaging and challenging.

- We nurture empathy and compassion through listening and sharing experiences.
- We promote honesty, trust and personal responsibility.
- We create relationships that are caring, supportive and encouraging.

OUR ATTRIBUTES

The Currajong School embraces a set of special attributes that allows our students to create, discover and grow together as part of our 'Currajong Family'.

Attribute One: Currajong Learning Processes

This means that we:

- nurture a love of learning
- recognise learning is a life-long process
- value the opinions and contributions of others
- cater for individual teaching and learning styles
- take responsibility for learning by encouraging risk taking
- provide challenging learning experiences that develop self esteem
- acknowledge effort and achievement
- encourage students and staff to reach their individual potential
- continually monitor progress and report on student achievement

Attribute Two: The Currajong School Behaviours

This means that we

- build self-resilience and look after our own wellbeing
- develop a sense of collective responsibility
- care about and support each other
- endeavour to do our best and be professional in everything we do
- value and actively pursue excellence
- behave honestly and ethically
- appreciate and accept ourselves and others
- respect the rights and property of others

- accept that rules are necessary for the safety of everyone
- encourage individual choice

Attribute Three: The Currajong Community

This means that we

- work together as a team to achieve common goals and purpose
- value the opinions and contributions of others
- respect individual skills and differences
- are adaptable to change
- work co-operatively
- communicate effectively
- create a supportive and co-operative environment
- have confidence, belief, and trust in team members
- demonstrate a personal contribution and commitment to educational improvement and excellence in teaching & learning
- understand and appreciate our own role and the role of others

Attribute Four: Our Environment

This means that we

- appreciate the 'welcoming and warm atmosphere' of our school
- appreciate the benefits of a small sized school and community
- are inspired by the history of the school
- work to maintain safe and healthy play areas
- are proud of our school and care for our buildings, outdoor spaces and resources
- enjoy and take care of the school environment so that it is a beautiful and engaging environment for learning

Statements which affirm the School's principles are found in documentation including the School prospectus and staff and parent handbooks. They are

communicated to the wider school community through the School website and in meetings with families and external agencies.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as per our three-year review cycle or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

Approval date:	Approved by:	Next review:
October 2021	School Board	October 2024



The Currajong School acknowledges the traditional owners of this country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to the Elders past, present and emerging.