



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Sonya Holden on 55 723 077.

HAMILTON PARKLANDS SCHOOL VISION:

Hamilton Parklands Schools' vision is to prepare young people to become active, engaged and responsible citizens of the local and global community. We provide learning experiences that allow our students to reach their full potential in all learning areas. At Hamilton Parklands School we promote a positive culture, which is a safe, inclusive and stimulating learning environment for all.

VALUES:

We share a united pride in our school and community through demonstrating:

- Respect,
- Responsibility and
- Safety

We maintain a level of high expectations in all of our students and a commitment to bringing out their best.

The programs of, and teaching in, Hamilton Parklands School must support and promote the principles of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- a) Elected government; and
- b) The rule of law; and
- c) Equal rights for all before the law; and
- d) Freedom of religion; and
- e) Freedom of speech and association; and
- f) The values of openness and tolerance.

MISSION:

The programs and teaching in our school are of a holistic design to develop the whole student. We are committed to developing the fundamental core areas of their schooling as well as develop them into becoming successful citizens. We will follow the *School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support* framework to provide a safe and stimulating learning environment. Due to the complex nature of our students' needs, we also endeavour to follow the *Principles for Health and Wellbeing*. The Principles are a reminder of good practice when working with children and young people and are intended to promote, nurture and support the health and wellbeing of Victorian children and young people. Statements that affirm the school's principles are found in the Hamilton Parklands School's Handbook as well as within other documents and policies such as the Inclusion and Diversity Policy, the School Strategic Plan and the Parent Handbook. Hamilton Parklands School will fully comply with Ministerial Order 706 and the associated guidelines published by the Department of Education and Training.

OBJECTIVES:

This vision will determine the school expectations in all of our documents, practices, councils and committee, community exposure, teaching and learning programs, school initiatives, internal and external interactions, and organisational structures and practices. Our values and expected behaviours will determine all interactions within our school community. 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.

In all work in the school, we will be asking, “Is this work or process in line with the school vision, values and beliefs?” This question will be a fundamental part of the practice of all staff members in the school and our school council.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND COMMITMENT:

Hamilton Parklands School considers the **safety** of children as being our highest priority. Our school is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making. Our school has a **zero tolerance** of child abuse. Our vision is for all students to reach their academic, social, emotional and physical potential. This will occur in a safe environment where they develop the school values of being respectful, responsible and safe and an overall sense of achievement.

Hamilton Parklands School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives.

Every person involved in Hamilton Parklands School has a **responsibility** to understand the important and specific role he or she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

Hamilton Parklands School is committed in its planning, decision-making and operations to:

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children;
4. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
5. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
7. Ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues;
8. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
9. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and;

Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.

Principle 1. Maximise access and inclusion

Principle 2. Focus on outcomes

Principle 3. Evidence informed and reflective practice

Principle 4. Holistic approach

Principle 5. Person centred and family sensitive practice

Principle 6. Partnerships with families and communities

Principle 7. Cultural competence

Principle 8. Commitment to excellence

Hamilton Parklands School enacts its philosophy by

- Explicitly providing instruction in our school values
- Enabling our students to have a voice
- Supporting and explicitly teaching appropriate behaviour choices using the SWPBS model
- Providing relevant and ongoing professional development to staff
- Ensuring staff and visitors have current Working with Children checks and VIT registrations
- Ensuring the Philosophy is distributed to school community and frequently reviewed
- Meeting obligations as set out in the “minimum Standards”

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	24 th March 2024
Consultation:	Staff - 16.4.2024 School Council - 22.4.24
Approved by	School Council - 22 nd April 2024
Next scheduled review date	April 2027