

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Hume Valley School is committed to child safety. As a community we want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all children as well as our families, staff and volunteers. There is **zero tolerance of child abuse**, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures. We are committed to providing a safe environment for children with a disability, as well as ensuring the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Hume Valley School believes that every child, irrespective of their ability level, can and will learn in an environment of dignity and respect. It is the role of the school and its community to build on a child's strengths and talents to ensure that each child reaches their full potential. The school aims to develop the capacity of students to contribute to, and participate in all aspects of community life in a positive way. Students will develop a wide range of skills to enable them to live successful lives as independently as possible.

The school's mission is to create reflective and independent learners for life through a learning community which provides a challenging and secure environment that is responsive to individual learning needs. We believe that effective learning occurs when outstanding and innovative teachers provide a variety of learning opportunities that actively engage students who are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning. The expectation is that students will be successful and enthusiastic learners capable of building positive relationships with peers, staff and the wider community.

Hume Valley School and wider community have engaged in a comprehensive consultative conversation, in particular within the Broadmeadows Schools Network, to clarify its shared vision for education, appropriate for preparing students with additional learning needs for the future.

The outcomes of the consultative process are encapsulated within five key areas describing our vision:

1. **Community**
2. **Values**
3. **Environment**
4. **Learning**
5. **Technology**

Key underpinnings to each of these areas of our vision for the future include:

1. Community

Our school will be a family friendly centre of the community. It will be inclusive, valuing the diversity of community members. All members will share responsibility for the sustainability of an inspired, educational community of independent citizens. There will continue to be connections, service to and support from the wider community.

2. Values

The school values **Respect, Responsibility, Acceptance, Caring, Fairness and Honesty** are imbedded in all school policies and practices. At the centre of the school's values are the expectations that all students be ready for learning, respect themselves and others, act safely and care for their school. These expectations are supported by positive partnerships with all members of the school, school council and the wider community to ensure optimal educational and social outcomes.

3. Environment

Learning will be maximised within a safe environment, where students feel both motivated and empowered as they strive to be the best they can be. Environmental awareness and sustainability will be promoted across the school community, fostering respect for personal and communal property and our environment

4. Learning

Lifelong learning will be fostered for all members of the school community. It will be both collaborative and independent, following individual pathways to the future. Diverse learning styles, interests and abilities will be catered for through flexible teaching styles. Learning will be through participation in engaging, meaningful curriculum incorporating both broad curriculum and relevant life skills. Our core purpose is for every student to leave this school literate, numerate, socially and vocationally competent in order to equip our students with skills and attitudes necessary to achieve their potential and lead successful adult lives.

5. Technology

Technology plays an important role in accessing the curriculum for students with additional learning needs. Emphasis is placed on providing an ICT rich environment, ensuring a comprehensive computer education using various technologies such as laptops, netbooks and iPads .

Pedagogical Principles

Pedagogical principles identified to support achievement of our vision are:

- The child is at the centre of all learning
- High expectations are held for and by the learning community and all members within it.
- Engagement will be facilitated through promoting thinking, active inquiry and relevant learning.
- Diverse learning styles will be catered for and supported through use of a wide range of teaching strategies and learning technologies
- Relationships are the key foundation to developing effective engagement with all members of the community. Interpersonal relationships and collaboration will be fostered within the school community. The School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program is used as a framework to support these positive relationships.

The school philosophy will be enacted through the following structures:

- Community consultation, newsletters and forums
- Staff professional development and induction processes
- Ongoing curriculum development
- Parent and family support structures

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Ratified By Hume Valley School Council	October 2017
Review Date:	October 2020