

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Statement of Philosophy

Our school's vision is to be an innovative school providing high quality, individualised education support for students experiencing social, emotional, behavioural and developmental difficulties.

It aims to prepare students to contend with a very dynamic 21st century in which creativity, cooperative work, connectedness to the world and adaptability are key features. The school aspires to provide a contemporary approach to teaching and learning in its purposeful learning environment.

The school values professionalism, excellence, advocacy, inclusion, innovation and integrity.

The programs of, and teaching in, the school will support and promote the principles and practices of Australian democracy including a commitment to:

- An 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 acceptance of differences and diversity.
- The safety of all children.

Values Education – “Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships”

The school uses the Department of Education and Training's “Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships” program. As needed the students are engaged in developmentally-appropriate learning that support development and understanding of:

- Emotional Literacy
- Personal Strengths
- Positive Coping
- Problem Solving
- Stress Management
- Help Seeking
- Gender and Identity
- Positive Gender Relations

eSmart

Through the eSmart initiative, students are also educated about safety, including cybersafety, anti-bullying and age-appropriate awareness of risks to safety in the community, including environmental, physical and emotional safety, risks posed by other persons and how and where to seek help when safety is compromised.

Child Safety

Avenues Education is committed to ensuring the safety of all students in its community. The school achieves this by developing a culture of safety through risk management to identify and remove risks of child abuse, policy development and implementation, code of conduct screening, supervision and

training, processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse and strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children. In order to ensure the safety of children, the school has appointed a Child Safety Officer (Assistant Principal) and developed policies and procedures in conjunction with the Child Safe Standards, including:

- Child Safe Policy
- Child Safe Code of Conduct Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct Policy
- Mandatory Reporting Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- ICT Use Policy
- Critical Incident Plan
- Emergency Management Plan
- Student Welfare Policy
- Student Code of Conduct Policy
- Home Visit Policy
- Student Engagement, Inclusion and Wellbeing Policy
- Whole-School Risk Management
- Excursions and Activities Policy
- Cultural safety of Aboriginal children
- Cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Safety of children with a disability

Enactment of School Philosophy

In all documents, in all practice by students and teachers, in work with the School Council and the community, in all teaching and learning programs, in all school initiatives, in all internal and external interactions, in all organisational structures and practices the vision of the school will sit at the centre and there will be expectations about all work aligning with the school 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.

The process at our school can be represented as the vision, values and beliefs at the centre. In an outer ring there will be a set of principles. As a further outer ring will be a set of practices. A detailed list of school policies will sit within this framework. In all work in the school, the question “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 leaders in the school.

Promotion of School Philosophy

The Avenues Education Vision, Mission and Values statement and the Avenues Education philosophy are promoted and articulated throughout the school and school community via staff share and the Avenues Education website.

Review cycle

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

This policy was last updated on August, 2018 and is scheduled for review on August, 2021

