



Montmorency Primary School

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Preamble

Montmorency Primary School is a thriving school set near the heart of Montmorency Shopping Village. We have a long tradition of educational excellence in teaching and learning. Our aim is "To provide a safe, supportive and positive environment embodying quality learning opportunities in order to maximise academic, social and community potential." We provide a child-centred curriculum that ensures our students develop individual, independent, collaborative and cooperative learning. Our core values are "Learning, Friendship, Safety and Respect". These underpin our goal of "Preparation for Life".

Our state of the art, modern facilities have been designed to allow flexibility in all teaching and learning programs, facilitating collaboration between teachers and students. Operable walls allow the classrooms to open to a central area for co-operative work, which allows for quality interchange between staff and children.

MPS has earned a reputation for connectedness, caring for others, developing individuals and linking learning to hands-on, engaging experiences. Students are inspired to be curious, resilient and persistent. We maintain our commitment to small class sizes and excellent adult to student ratios. Teachers are experienced and enthusiastic and are supported by the Montmorency community. Students receive individual learning plans that reflect high-expectations and quality-driven practice from our teachers. MPS has a reputation for high standards in literacy and numeracy, with student achievement data continuing to compare favourably against state and like school group benchmarks. The school has specialist programs in Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Physical Education and offers Japanese lessons in junior years. Our well-established Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKG) complements our hands on learning approach. We provide Kitchen and Garden classes from throughout the school. STEM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) relating to the Victorian curriculum promotes real-life, active learning experiences. In 2017 we appointed a Science specialist who oversees our exciting new STEM curriculum.

In 2016 we successfully implemented our "Flying Start" program for kinder aged children. This allows for our future Foundation students to have a smooth transition to school. This commences towards the end of Term 1, each year.

Student voice is important to us. We have School Captains, Sports Captains, Environment Captains and ICT Captains as well as Junior School Councillors. Captains and students elected to JSC run assemblies and bring class issues to the fore. Our Grade 5/6 children attend Leadership training in order to promote the concept of everyone as a learner and leader. Students set personal learning goals each semester promoting independence and self-directed learning. Our "buddy" program ensures that strong relationships between students of all ages are forged at the start of each year.

In addition to Interschool Sport, our extra-curricular activities include: Choir, Percussion groups, Mandarin lessons, Kelly Sports, Chess Club, Code Club, visiting keyboard, percussion, wind instrumental and guitar tuition - during class time and/or after hours. We offer GATEWAYS and join in Premier's Reading Challenge, Athletics and Reading Eggs. Cybersafety and Digital Technology programs are also offered as we embed both online activities (using laptops and ipads) and offline activities into our classroom learning. Each year we celebrate Book Week, Education Week and Science Week. Camps are offered from Grades 3 to 6. Our fully accredited before and after-school program is run by CAMP Australia. Our

environmentally conscious school is working closely with Banyule Council to accredit as a five-star sustainable school.

Parents and carers play an active part in our school life. We promote parent involvement through our Parents and Friends Group, SAKG volunteering, library or classroom assistance. Social functions such as trivia nights, fashion parades and barbeques, engage our parent body and builds community spirit.

In 2017, we were fortunate to secure a grant of \$20000 which will enabled us to be a lead school in the Department's "Respectful Relationships" program. This has provided the vehicle for collaboration with the Department as well as other schools as we build and sustain a culture of respect and gender equality.

Our school grounds are open and inviting, highlighting the natural beauty of our local environment with plenty of varied play spaces. The indigenous nature corridor created by our students with the support of Banyule Council continues to flourish along our Alban Street border, facilitating an understanding of the land and sustainability. We welcome community use of our facilities and remain open to forging links with local government and environmental groups in order to expand our welcoming, inclusive and educational environment.

Mission

Montmorency Primary School aims to provide a safe, supportive and positive environment that provides quality learning opportunities that maximise academic, social and community potential. Through the delivery of a child-centred curriculum we foster individual, independent, collaborative and cooperative learning and acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of every student.

Vision

Our *Vision* states the overarching approach we as a school will use in conjunction with our *Values* to accomplish the goals of our *Mission Statement*.

Montmorency Primary School aims for excellence in Learning, Friendship, Safety and Respect. These four values underpin our teaching and learning. Our Strategic Plan promotes the teaching of skills and values within a quality-driven institution in tune with the emerging requirements of the third millennium.

Values

We promote the following values through a whole school approach:

- Learning - we aim for excellence and have fun whilst learning
- Respect - for ourselves, for each other and the environment
- Friendship - we care about others and show compassion and consideration
- Safety - we all have the right to be in a safe, working environment

These four core values underpin 'Preparation for Life'.

The school's programs, as enacted by our staff, 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 tolerance.

Enactment of School Philosophy

The Montmorency Primary School vision will be central to all operations. It is an expectation that all work will be informed by and aligned with the school vision and values. This includes all:

- documents
- practice by students and teachers
- work with the School Council and the community
- teaching and learning programs
- school initiatives
- internal and external interactions
- organisational structures and practices

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. A comprehensive list of school policies will sit within this framework, and will be subject to systematic appraisal and review.

A fundamental part of the practice of all members of the school community will be the question, “Is this work or process in line with the school vision, values and beliefs?”

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

This policy was last updated on November 2018 and is scheduled for review in October 2021.