



MONTMORENCY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Statement of Philosophy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the office on 9434 5944 or email montmorency.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

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 collaborative 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. Teachers are experienced and enthusiastic and are supported by the Montmorency community. They engage in continuous professional learning and development throughout the year including workshops, peer observations, working alongside coaches and engaging with regional and network initiatives. 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. Students are challenged and supported with a differentiated learning curriculum teaching each child at their point of need. Students are also supported and extended through our intervention and enrichment programs, ensuring that students who may be at risk remain engaged in their learning. The school has specialist programs in Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Japanese and Science. Our well-established Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKG) complements our hands-on learning approach. We provide Kitchen and Garden classes from Foundation to Grade 6. STEM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) relating to the Victorian curriculum promotes real-life, active learning experiences. Student engagement and wellbeing is supported through the implementation of the MPS Wellbeing Approach, incorporating the Respectful Relationships curriculum, The Resilience Project, The Cybersafety Project, the Zones of Regulation, Restorative Practices and a tiered response to wellbeing support.

Student voice and agency is important to MPS. Our student leadership program prepares senior students for leadership roles in Grade 6 and beyond. Leadership positions have clear roles and responsibilities that

not only provide opportunities for leaders to contribute meaningfully to the school, but to also develop personal skills and attributes in challenging and rewarding ways. Senior leadership positions include School Captains, Vice Captains, Sports Captains, Environment Captains, Performing and Visual Arts Captains and House Captains. Students from Foundation to Grade 6 are also able to be elected as Student Representative Councillors, attending regular SRC meetings and running fundraising events. Our Grade 5 students attend Leadership Workshops in Term 4 of each year in order to promote the concept of everyone as a 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, Kelly Sports Dance, lunch clubs, private instrumental tuition during school hours and/or after hours. 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. Students in Grades 3-6 are supported with 1:1 access to Microsoft Chromebooks owned by the school and students from Foundation to Grade 2 have access to generous banks of iPads. Each year we celebrate Book Week, Education Week and Science Week. Camp experiences are offered from Grades 2 to 6 each year. Our fully accredited before and after-school program is run by CAMP Australia.

Parents and carers play an active part in our school life. We promote parent involvement through our fundraising events, excursions, SAKG volunteering, library or classroom assistance. Social functions such as trivia nights, picnics, dinners and barbeques, engage our parent body and builds community spirit. Whole school events such as the annual Colour Run, Movie Night, Productions, Mother’s and Father’s Day breakfasts, Easter Hat Parades, Book Week Parades, Christmas Concert and Family Maths and Science Nights bring the community together and celebrate.

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. To develop a sense of ownership, students are involved in planning new gardens or play spaces, such as the sensory playground and the senior garden which were installed in 2020 and 2021. 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?"

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following way:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in transition and enrolment packs

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Montmorency Primary School policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy

Department policies:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	December 2022
Consultation	School Leadership School Council
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	December 2025