

Woodline Primary Philosophy and Vision

Purpose:	To convey the schools vision, mission, values and objectives of the school
Scope:	All staff and members of the school community
Implemented by:	All staff and members of the school community
Approved by:	WP Board
Reviewed:	Every three years or as legislative changes or improvements are identified
Communicated via:	Staff Induction, Meetings, whole school agreements, Parent Handbook, Policies and Procedures Manual, Website

1. Philosophy

Our philosophy is centered around supporting and nurturing children’s emotional wellbeing within an emotionally safe learning environment. Research shows that when children feel safe (free from judgment, treated with kindness and respect, valued for their differences), their neurological system becomes fully operational, increasing their capacity for learning and growth. Our aim is for students to utilise their time with us to develop critical life skills such as emotional intelligence, self-expression, critical thinking and a growth mindset.

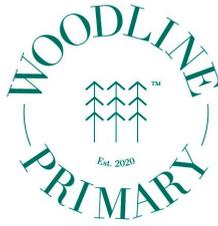
The way that we create that environment is through connection - it’s at the heart of everything we do. We’re all on a first-name basis at Woodline, and our teachers, who each bring a beautiful blend of teaching styles and a fresh perspective to the school, see their roles as guides and facilitators rather than instructors.

Our aim is to enrich our students' lives with skills that will support them to develop a deep understanding of what’s important: their knowledge and value of themselves.

2. Values

Our values are the beating heart of Woodline. They are our foundational truths and they’re woven into every fibre of our school:

- They inform our unique blended pedagogy and are incorporated throughout our curriculum
- They remind us that what we stand for is the emotional wellbeing and emotional safety of children
- They drive our vision of a community of children and families who feel valued and celebrated for who they are
- They guide and support our personal competencies, and
- They are deeply embedded in our culture, so that they become an inner compass for our students.



1. Connection

Connection is at the very heart of our school. Our most important question as educators and mentors is “how can I best connect?” We foster an environment in which children feel that all parts of their being are welcomed and supported. We connect with students and families to build trust and open communication that allows us to work collaboratively to support our children, and this helps our children learn the value of connection.

We connect with ourselves and others.

2. Environmental responsibility

Our beautiful school sits on 20 acres of farmland within the Geelong hinterland. It’s an environment that provides a constant reminder of our inheritance and our responsibility to do whatever we can to tread lightly on the planet and to be active changemakers where we see a need. The school has an ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability, running composting and worm farms, water efficiency projects and a functioning micro-farm that supplies our kitchen.

We strive to be mindful of our impact and take action to make that impact positive wherever we can.

3. Openness

It is through trust and connection that we are able to be open with one another and really get to know and value our community. We are transparent in our communication with students and families, open to being challenged, and open to feedback and new ideas.

We are open to learning new things.

4. A sense of wonder and curiosity

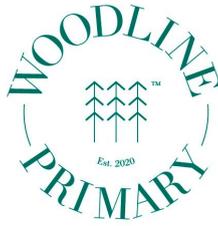
Often children’s sense of wonder, awe, spirit, exploration, play or imagination is not welcome in the classroom. We not only celebrate children’s curiosity, we’ve designed a curriculum in which students are encouraged to follow what intrigues them, investigate the wonderful, and bring it to life if its only home is in their imagination.

We are curious.

5. Emotional safety

We know that as a child feels emotionally safe in their environment, their capacity for learning and growth blossoms. Our safe learning space goes well beyond a non-punitive environment. The emotional wellbeing of each child is at the forefront of our approach. Our ultimate goal is to encourage students to take risks and to know that risk-taking is safe. Children practice listening respectfully, validating the emotions of others and appreciating the differences and similarities between themselves and other people.

We are strong because we are vulnerable.



6. Honouring the individual

We welcome and support all parts of a child's being. We honour each individual – allowing them to fully express their true nature, and teaching them skills to cultivate and treasure their extraordinary uniqueness. We recognise that each child learns and creates in a way that is particular to them and we provide a learning environment that is inclusive, differentiated and respectful of individuality. We hold space for children at school, empowering them to value themselves deeply.

We have compassion and empathy for ourselves and others.

3. Vision

The Woodline Primary learning program is shaped by the values and objectives of its founders. It has been designed to generate a love of learning through understanding each student's unique learning style, incorporating (among other tools) Gardner's Multiple Intelligences Theory to draw out each child's beauty and genius.

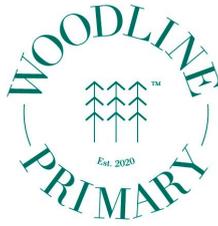
We believe that education must be child centred, through a teaching and learning program that aligns education to the child's interests.

- Emotional intelligence
- Growth mindset
- Critical thinking
- Self-expression
- Value and acceptance
- Self-actualisation

4. Objectives

To help our children achieve great success academically as well as personally, we focus on the culture of the school. Teachers and students together, create an environment in which it feels safe to have a go, to make mistakes, to ask questions, to have a respectful difference of opinion. We rely on the below four pillars of Woodline:

- Emotional wellbeing
- Pioneering curriculum and philosophy
- Beautiful space
- Family and community focussed



Commitment to Democratic Principles

Woodline Primary adheres to, supports and promotes the principles and practice of Australian democracy.

These include a commitment to:

- elected government;
- the rule of law;
- equal rights for all before the law;
- freedom of religion;
- freedom of speech and association; and
- the values of openness and tolerance.
- The safety of all children

Table of Amendments

Version number	Date	Short description of amendment
1.0	June 2019	Draft of the new policy
Scheduled review date		December 2023