



Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our school community and explain the vision, mission and objectives of our school.

Democratic Principles

Serpell PS is committed to the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

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

Motto

Learning, Caring, Sharing

Vision

Empowering learners in a global community through educational excellence and personal growth.

Mission

Founded in 1978, Serpell Primary School continues to display academic excellence within a thriving multicultural and linguistically diverse community. This dynamic, international environment enhances the Serpell school community and exposes our students to a global experience. Our vision, "empowering learners in a global community through educational excellence and personal growth" is a common goal shared between our students, staff and parents. United, we have developed a distinctive philosophy of:

- recognising that we are a community of lifelong global learners,
- maximizing individual potential through engagement and enrichment,
- offering learning opportunities that promote a thinking culture,
- catering for individual learning styles,
- fostering the development of independence, resilience and collaborative learning.

Serpell Primary has a strong tradition in the provision of excellence in educational standards and the development of students who strive and achieve success in academic, artistic and sporting arenas. The School is committed to meeting the needs of its students and in catering for the large range of student interests and capabilities. We have developed a distinctive ethos, encapsulated by its motto "Learning, Caring and Sharing." High emphasis is placed on academic achievement in the context of the development of programs of excellence and the extension of all students to maximize individual learning potential. We have increasingly developed an International frame of reference, in response to an increasingly global school community.

The school motto, "Learning Caring Sharing" and the associated logo were developed through a school and community consultation in the late 1970s. Both are recognized symbols in the school and wider community.

Values

Serpell Primary School values:

Child Centred Learning

- Design of a high quality curriculum that meets the needs of individual students
- Recognition that learning is natural
- Recognition that learning is a lifelong, global, future focussed pathway
- Teaching children the explicit skills of how to learn
- Recognition of the breadth of learning styles and abilities
- Recognition that childhood is a vital and valuable life stage

Civic Learning

- Making a difference to students' own lives and the lives of others
- Taking civic responsibility
- Developing awareness of global issues and sustainability
- Upholding of the United Nations Charter of Human Rights to enshrine the inalienable rights of every one to freedom, justice and peace.
- Working collaboratively
- Respect for diversity and inclusiveness
- Appreciation of talent, skills, differences and potential

Creative Learning

- Building a culture of innovation & exploration
- Encouragement of flexible and adaptive thinking and problem solving
- Emphasis on adventure and challenging experiences in order to provide students with lifelong skills in confidence, self-esteem, risk taking, independence and resilience

Achievement Learning

- High achievement and academic competence
- Individual learning goals
- Self-assessment and responsibility for learning
- Commitment to strive for International best practice

Leadership Learning

- Resilience and life skills
- An ability to reflect and plan, share with a team and give feedback
- Inspiration, influence and the capacity take others on the learning journey
- Change, challenge, improvement and experience
- Integrity, tolerance and ethics

Professional Learning

- Recognition of a highly skilled professional teaching culture which supports the growth of staff as a team unit
- Commitment to ongoing professional learning and improvement

Community Collaboration and Learning

- Utilising best practice in school governance processes
- Participation and cooperation amongst all members of the wider school community
- Efficient and effective open communication
- Access to the significant professional and business experience and wisdom of parents
- Opportunities for all stakeholders to be part of the decision making process
- Implementing responsible financial management
- Making socially, emotionally and responsible choices

Cultural & Linguistic Diversity

- Celebrating cultural and linguistic diversity
- Appreciating and respecting religious faiths
- Providing access to languages other than English
- Providing perspectives on events of worldwide significance

Definitions

Digital Citizenship:

Serpell students learn and communicate online safely, responsibly, ethically and critically with an awareness of digital etiquette and the potential impact of their digital footprint.

Intercultural Learning:

Serpell students develop intercultural understandings as they learn to value identity through the experience of culture, language and beliefs. They learn to appreciate commonalities and differences in diverse cultural perspectives and practices. Students develop dispositions such as empathy and respect towards other cultures by creating connections with others.

Global Citizenship:

Serpell students have a sense of how their own role as a world citizen can shape sustainable communities locally, nationally and internationally.

Evaluation:

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

Ratification:

This policy was ratified by the School Council on Monday the 16th of April 2018.