



Northcote Primary School Philosophy

School Narrative

Northcote is known for its strong sense of community connectedness, and Northcote Primary School has this in spades.

Over our 140 year history the school has evolved into a place where community matters and where our students continue to achieve academically. We are proud of our consistent teaching and learning and the high standards we set for our staff and students.

At our school we celebrate the individual. Our students are highly engaged. They are motivated and happy to be here. Every day our students show how much they care for each other – in both the classroom and playground.

Northcote Primary School students come ready to learn and leave ready for the next adventure. They are encouraged and equipped to solve life's challenges, which we know is a vital skill.

We are a welcoming school community. Strong relationships are the hallmark of our school – among students, parents, staff and within the Northcote community.

As a school we are doing lots of great work and we are always challenging ourselves to keep improving. We need to pause from time to time to reflect on our achievements and remember what makes Northcote Primary such a special place.

Our staff, School Council and the broader school community are working together to support our students on their learning journey. We encourage parents to lend a hand and to continue to get actively involved in Northcote Primary school.

Our programs will support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy including a commitment to the following, as outlined in s 1.2.1 of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)*:

- 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

Vision

At Northcote Primary School we believe our core purpose is to develop children to be literate, numerate and curious, and to be part of a vibrant and engaged community of staff, family and friends.

We aim to develop students who are motivated, engaged and resilient, and who contribute to the wellbeing of others.

Our positive school culture is predicated on student engagement being the basis for learning. To support this, our leadership team is actively engaged in developing classroom practice to ensure that our pedagogy and curriculum engages all students. Effective teaching, inclusive and engaging curriculum and respectful relationships between members of the school community is promoted through collegiality, eg, mentoring and peer observations, and professional learning teams that encourage innovative pedagogy developed using the Department’s Effective Schools Model, Victorian Curriculum, Student Engagement Policy Guidelines and DET initiatives.

Mission

At Northcote Primary School our core purpose is to develop children to be literate, numerate and curious, and to be part of a vibrant and engaged community of staff, family and friends. Our school values underpin our actions and provide direction in our decision-making.

Values

Creativity	Stimulating curiosity and exploration as well as providing opportunities for choice, discovery and creative self-expression	Creativity means: Original ideas that have value Designing and making new things Different ways of seeing things Innovation & risk-taking Intellectual – thinking, problem-solving Artistic – performance, visual, music, dance
Community	Welcoming students, staff, families and friends by promoting a sense of belonging and sharing in our school	Community means: Actions based on shared expectations, values, beliefs and meanings between individuals Involvement, connection, belonging, inclusion
Respect	Accepting and valuing ourselves and others and demonstrating this in our behaviour.	Respect means: We respect ourselves by accepting and valuing who we are We respect others by treating people fairly and appreciating different circumstances and views We respect our community by welcoming newcomers and lending a hand to each other

Objectives

The objectives of Northcote Primary School are clearly documented in our Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plans. The goals in our 2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan include:

Achievement

All Northcote Primary School students will:

- Develop to be literate, numerate and curious learners, through a differentiated curriculum

Engagement

All Northcote Primary School we aim to:

- Develop students who are motivated, engaged, resilient and contribute to the wellbeing of others

Productivity

To ensure consistency and alignment of all aspects of school operations and resource allocation that result in sustained improvement in student learning and well being

Wellbeing

The school will promote student wellbeing in all learning experiences by:

- providing an environment and curriculum that support students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to manage their own health and wellbeing and to support that of others
- aligning student welfare and curriculum policies.
- having **zero tolerance of child abuse**, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures.

The school will:

- provide an integrated and comprehensive curriculum approach that incorporates equitable opportunities for all students to enhance their own and others' wellbeing through their daily learning experiences
- provide a curriculum that supports students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills that enables them to engage critically with a range of health and wellbeing areas and issues
- identify areas where focused support or intervention is required to:
- improve each child's learning and development
- provide a curriculum that enables students to progress along the continuum of the Victorian Curriculum F-10 achievement standards, including the Towards Foundation Curriculum 'Levels A-D'.

The school will:

- provide a safe, inclusive and supportive environment that promote health, wellbeing, learning and development
- build caring and supportive relationships with children and their families
- ensure children and families are consulted about matters that impact on them and their voices inform policies and activities that contribute to health and wellbeing

- support staff to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of our *children*, ensuring that staff act with integrity when dealing with those in their care
- build partnerships with health and wellbeing services and other relevant community services

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of Northcote Primary School's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (no current DET A-Z Index reference).

NPS School Council ratified this document on the 5th December 2018