



STATEMENT OF SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Who Are We?

Established in 1927, Briar Hill Primary School nestles in quiet, leafy surrounds in the City of Banyule, between Greensborough and Eltham. The school is a unique Prep - Year 6 setting, offering a nurturing learning environment in the tranquil surrounds of our beautiful, bird filled gardens and natural play spaces. We recognise that our greatest asset is our children, so we work hard to create vibrant programs which reflect the qualities our school most values, and we actively foster opportunities for every child to thrive.

Our school's maxim, 'Head, Heart and Hands', clearly reflects the varied, engaging approaches we take to teaching and learning. Our innovative programs, which have a Steiner influence, enhance children's opportunities for authentic learning, ensure high quality curriculum delivery and support all students to be their best. Our school offers a single stream of educational provision, and is continuously developing quality approaches which meet expected standards and reflect our focus on teaching and learning.

We offer a range of specialist programs that complement our core classroom programs, including Environmental Science and Gardening, Library/ICT, LOTE (Japanese), an instrumental music program, Eurythmy and Extra Lesson (PMP).

Our little school has grown to just over 200 students and their families, all of whom contribute to a wonderful, close knit community. The school also prides itself on being home to two base rooms from Diamond Valley Special Developmental School, and we embrace the richness and diversity this opportunity offers.

Our Vision

Learning with head, heart and hands

Our mission statement

The Briar Hill Primary School Community believes that education entwines the gifts brought by the head, heart and hands of every person.

We aspire to create an environment that supports children and the school community in their lifelong journey of self-development, discovery and growth.

Our values

The values of our school community are reflected in our behaviour, our decisions and shape our interactions.

- Be KIND to yourself
- Be KIND to others
- Be KIND to the environment
- Be the learning KIND
- Be the achieving KIND
- Be the community KIND

THE SIX KINDS

CORE VALUES					
Be KIND to yourself	Be KIND to others	Be KIND to the environment	Be the learning KIND	Be the achieving KIND	Be the community KIND
WHAT WILL YOU CHOOSE TO DO?					
Be proud of your uniqueness	Value and take care of relationships	Clean up after yourself	Be open to learning	Have a go!	Act with responsibility
Develop a sense of identity (know what is important to you)	Respect the rights of others	Care for the air and waterways	Explore who you are	Try lots of different things	Show mutual respect
Know your strengths and use them	Be polite and use your manners well	Recycle	Be curious	Discover what you're good at and enjoy doing it	Be honest and truthful
Exercise	Praise people who do things well	Save water	Find out how you learn best	Do your best	Help others
Eat well	Be an active listener	Conserve energy	Keep an open heart and mind	Make the most of your time	Strive for fairness for all
Sleep well	Allow others to be themselves	Care for natural habitats and wildlife	Think critically	Set goals and plan to achieve them	Share and care
Take time to relax	Respect and explore other points of view	Make environmentally friendly choices	Learn from your mistakes	Persist	Participate and care for your communities
Keep learning and growing	Seek fairness for all	Value our indigenous and multicultural heritage		Be flexible	
Challenge yourself	Be compassionate and take responsibility for your actions	Find the joy in the world around you		Look at different ways of doing things	
Love and value the love of others	Support and include others			Listen well and express yourself honestly and respectfully	
Value friendship	Treat others the way you would like to be treated			Seek positive roles models	
Be confident and humble	Find the joy in others			Find the joy in what you see and do	
Bounce back					
Enjoy yourself and who you are					
Be courageous					
Embrace your mistakes					

Enactment of our school philosophy

In all documents, in all practice by students and teachers, in all work with school council and the community, in all teaching and learning programs, in all school initiatives, in all internal and external interactions, in all organisational structures and practices, this vision of the school will sit at the core, and there will be expectations about all work aligning with the school vision.

All programs and teaching at Briar Hill Primary School 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 acceptance.

Statements which affirm the school's principles are found in the vision of the school and in school documents.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

Date Implemented	1 February, 2014
Approved By	Briar Hill Primary School Council
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	
Responsible for Review	Principal
Review Date	November, 2015