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## RESPECT FOR SCHOOL STAFF POLICY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Valkstone Primary School on 03 9570 3986 or [valkstone.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:valkstone.ps@education.vic.gov.au).

### PURPOSE

To ensure that members of our community understand Valkstone Primary School's expectations for appropriate interactions with school staff.

### POLICY

Staff at Valkstone Primary School, including teachers, education support staff, office staff, the Assistant principal/s and Principal are committed to providing a supportive learning environment for all our students. Our staff take their work very seriously and feel privileged to be able to play an important role in each child's education.

Parents/carers and visitors to our school also have an important role to play in fostering a safe and inclusive environment for the entire school community.

All staff at Valkstone Primary School have a right to a safe and supportive work environment.

Valkstone Primary School expects that all parents/carers and visitors to our school behave in an appropriate and respectful manner to school staff at all times.

There will be a zero tolerance approach to any aggression, intimidation, threats or harassment of school staff, by any means (e.g. in person, by phone, by email, on social media etc). These behaviours may lead to exclusion from school grounds and school activities.

The Principal may report aggressive, intimidating, threatening or otherwise inappropriate conduct to Victoria Police. The Department of Education and Training may also take legal or other appropriate action against community members or parents/carers who pose a threat to the safety and wellbeing of school staff.

Valkstone Primary School expects all members of our community to act consistently with our *Statement of Values*. We are committed to ensuring that staff, parents/carers and students are able to work together in an appropriate and respectful way.

## Respectful behaviours within the school community

All staff at Valkstone Primary School have a right to a safe and supportive work environment, and we expect that parents/carers and visitors behave in an appropriate and respectful manner at all times.

The Department of Education and Training has outlined expectations on parent/carer behaviour within Victorian government school communities in the [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#).

## Unacceptable behaviours

When parents and carers engage in unacceptable behaviours against a staff member of another member of the school community, this can affect their health, safety and wellbeing.

Unacceptable behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- being violent or threatening violence of any kind, including physically intimidating behaviour such as aggressive hand gestures or invading another person's personal space
- speaking or behaving in a rude, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via email, social media, or over the telephone
- sending demanding, rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- discriminatory or derogatory comments
- the use of social media or public forums to make inappropriate or threatening remarks about the school, staff or students.

At the Principal's discretion, unacceptable behaviour may be managed by:

- requesting that the parties attend a mediation or counselling sessions
- implementing specific communication protocols
- written warnings
- conditions of entry to school grounds or school activities
- exclusion from school grounds or attendance at school activities
- reports to Victoria Police
- legal action

The Principal may also seek support from Department of Education and Training staff when managing unacceptable parent or carer behaviour.

## Respectfully raising complaints

We welcome complaints from parents and carers if they are communicated in a respectful and constructive way. Complaints and concerns raised with us can help our school community by providing feedback to improve how our school operates.

When raising a complaint or concern with us, Valkstone Primary School expects all members of our community to act consistently with this policy, our *Statement of Values and School Philosophy* and the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#).

For information on how to raise a complaint or concern with our school, refer to our Valkstone Primary School's Parent Complaints Policy.

The [Family Engagement in Learning](#) is also a useful Department resource outlining how parents and carers can best engage with schools to provide feedback, suggestions and complaints.

## COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

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

Valkstone Primary School policies:

- Parent Complaints Policy
- Statement of Values and School Philosophy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	April 11, 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	April 11, 2028