

Upper Sturt Primary School: Vision, Mission and Values (2022-2025)

Context:

Upper Sturt Primary School is a small school with a big heart. Located in the Adelaide Hills, Upper Sturt is situated 20km from the Adelaide CBD, directly up the South-Eastern Freeway. The school site includes bushland covered by a heritage agreement and combined with our Food Forest, Bush Village and general outdoor settings, this unique natural environment provides endless opportunities for students to learn in, through and about nature. The school has stable student enrolments with a high volume of enquiries from outside the area and a recent increase in enrolments from local Upper Sturt and Hills residents. The current infrastructure of the school allows for a genuine community feel where relationships between students, teachers and families provide the foundation for a sense of belonging, safety and security.

Vision:

To empower all students, through a connection with nature, to achieve excellence as confident and successful learners who display the values of Kindness, Resilience, Independence and Curiosity to participate and contribute positively as local and global citizens.

Mission:

To educate and equip all students with the skills, knowledge, understanding and values to be both life-long learners and develop strong physical, social, emotional, and psychological wellbeing.

To foster student's general capabilities, including self-awareness, social-awareness, self-management and social-management through positive relationships, accountability, high levels of challenge and high levels of support.

To provide a comprehensive approach to teaching and learning all aspects of the Australian Curriculum, in particular Literacy and Numeracy. Students will experience intentional, sequential and explicit teaching of concepts to ensure skills and knowledge are embedded.

- a. Literacy – a deep understanding of all aspects Literacy including spelling and reading (de-coding), Writing (en-coding), speaking, listening and viewing.
- b. Numeracy – a deep understanding of number with learning in all Mathematical areas to develop proficiencies of understanding, fluency, problem solving and reasoning.
- c. Technologies, Science/ STEM, Health & PE, Kaurana and The Arts

To provide opportunities for students to explore their passions and interests through learning based on individual student wonderings. The balance between student-led and explicit instruction allows for key concepts to be learnt and then applied in context to develop mastery and fluency.

To provide a personalised approach to teaching where evidence of student learning is used to support differentiated teaching and intervention and facilitate a team approach with parents/ families.

To provide routines, rituals, structures and processes that contribute to a sense of purpose, belonging, safety and security to all students.

To provide teaching and learning opportunities that utilise the natural and physical environment. Learning in and about nature and our connection to the natural world occurs through weekly Kamana sessions where students develop practical environmental and nature-based skills and knowledge through the Wild Passport. The passport is a competency-based curriculum that Upper Sturt Primary School has mapped to align with the Australian Curriculum (Science). Wild Passport consists of 7 categories: Rope, Fire, Woodcraft, Shelter, Nature, Weather, and the Senses.

Values:

Kindness

- We put others ahead of ourselves
- We listen with compassion and intent and follow reasonable instructions
- We play and learn in a way that is fair and includes everyone
- We play and learn in a way that allows everyone to have fun and be safe
- We speak calmly and politely
- We help when others are hurt
- We show gratitude and always use our manners
- We offer support to others when needed
- We encourage others and celebrate their success

Resilience

- We push through even tough things can be tough
- We believe in ourselves and have a growth mindset
- We take ownership of our mistakes, learn from them and work to fix them
- We take calculated risks after assessing all scenarios
- We accept feedback
- We play fairly and accept both winning and losing
- We keep trying and stay in the learning even when it is difficult or uncomfortable
- We have a go at everything and do our best

Independence

- We manage our own learning time
- We are organized to learn
- We look after our own property
- We know what to do and do it without being told
- If we don't know what to do, we ask for support and then act on it
- We recognise and express our emotions appropriately
- We do the right thing even when no-one is looking
- We set goals and strive to achieve them
- We are responsible for our words and actions
- We work with support to learn to do things for ourselves

Curiosity

- We are open-minded and see learning as life long
- We know learning happens everywhere and we make connections to our learning
- We think critically and ask questions respectfully
- We seek information and knowledge from a range of sources
- We display a love of learning and sense of wonder
- We display creativity and a sense of joy in our learning

Ngaitalya is the Kaurna word for Respect and is interwoven through all interactions and teaching and learning opportunities at Upper Sturt Primary School.