



# GK PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

GlenKatherine  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

**OUR VISION** *Children, Teachers, Parents: A partnership for the future*

## **OUR MISSION**

By placing the child at the centre of all that we do, we ensure a focused and committed effort, enabling each child to feel valued, safe, supported, empowered and successful. Our differentiated learning programs aim to challenge learners, stimulate interest and curiosity as well as develop knowledge, understandings, behaviours, attitudes and skills that will equip each child with the confidence and capabilities to live successfully in a globalised world.

## **OUR VALUES**

Glen Katherine aims to provide a quality educational environment characterised by an overall value identity of A.R.R.R.E. with each letter depicting a specific value that our school community identifies as highly significant.

**ACCEPTANCE, RESPECT, RESILIENCE, RESPONSIBILITY,  
EXCELLENCE**

## **OVERVIEW**

Glen Katherine Primary School Council and staff are committed to offering equality of opportunity to all students. We aim to create a 'student at the centre' learning environment in which everyone works cooperatively, respectfully and successfully together. We expect children to enjoy school, experience success and take increasing responsibility for their learning and decision-making.

## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

Glen Katherine Primary School was established in 1988. The school is located in Eltham North, mid-way between Eltham and Diamond Creek. Families in attendance are drawn primarily from Eltham, Eltham North, Diamond Creek, Greensborough, Plenty, Yarrambat and Hurstbridge. Strong links with the local kindergartens and St Helena Secondary College ensure a smooth transition process into and beyond GK. The school's 2015 funded enrolment is 545 students organised into 22 classes with class sizes in the P-2 area in the low 20's and mid-20's range from 3-6. Generally, the school has a low ESL (English as a Second Language) profile with the majority of students having an Anglo Saxon background. The percentage of families entitled to EMA (Educational Maintenance Allowance) has remained relatively stable over the last four years and in fact has reduced by 10 families from 2010 – 2013. Glen Katherine welcomes students and families regardless of their backgrounds, nationality and residential addresses. We provide a friendly, welcoming and caring environment to all who enrol at Glen Katherine.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL – GROUNDS AND FACILITIES**

The learning environment, including buildings and grounds, provides an important foundation for learning to occur. At GK, we take pride in the school environment and work to continually improve it as has been evidenced over recent years.

There are 16 permanent classrooms, 8 relocatable classrooms plus 3 school owned spaces (Community room, Science room and Facilities store). The school's facilities include modern, carpeted, air-conditioned/heated teaching spaces, a large library, specialist art, science, and music rooms, and an activity based Out of School Hours Program which includes vacation, curriculum day and Prep care. The extensive well-planned grounds provide both active and passive activity zones including: a full sized gymnasium, a shared oval, hard courts, two synthetic surface tennis courts and adventure playgrounds. Shade sails, a gazebo, a large, curved roof shade structure over a central courtyard and long verandas give children ample shaded play and quiet activity spaces. A multipurpose building (MPB) completed in 2011 greatly enhanced existing school facilities and provides a modern space for Music, Art as well as a half-sized gym which is used for PE, grade activities, visiting presenters, PFA functions etc. A functional kitchen and additional multipurpose space also provides a magnificent area for our Out of School Hours Care program (7am-8.40am; 3pm-6.30pm and vacation care program). The MPB is in use from 7am-6.30pm for 48 weeks of the year. The Science precinct includes a dedicated classroom and environmental area called the GK Gully. At the end of 2011, the school was

announced by the state government as a specialist school in Science and Sustainability and awarded a \$100,000 grant enabling the continuation and further development of the school's Science and Sustainability program and practices.

## **EDUCATIONAL**

Glen Katherine uses AusVELS curriculum as the basis for curriculum planning. English and Mathematics are the pillars of our curriculum which is where substantial teaching time is invested. Other curriculum includes Science, Music, Art, Health & PE, Technology, History, Geography, Economics and Italian. Information and Communication Technology is an important aspect of curriculum and is integrated across curriculum areas. Students have ready access to computers/notebooks along with a range of digital tools including cameras, smart boards, data projectors and printers. Extra-curricular activities and programs include:- Interschool Sport; Choir; Camps and Excursions Program; Gully Club; Buddies; Chess Club; Junior School Council; Student Leadership Program including School Captains, House Captains, Arts Captains, LOTE, Peer Mediation & Green Team captains; Premier's Reading Challenge and Peer Mediation. Instrumental and vocal tuition are also available.

Glen Katherine is committed to maximizing the educational opportunities for all students and provides a diverse range of extra-curricular activities and programs that enhance core curriculum teaching and learning. A comprehensive assessment program identifies student achievement levels and teaching tasks primarily focus on teaching students what they next need to learn. Teaching is differentiated to better cater for student needs and ability levels, particularly in English and Mathematics.

## **STUDENT WELL BEING**

A key aspect of our program is values education which is as much about character building as it is about equipping students with specific skills, knowledge and understandings. It is our belief that a sound values-based education can strengthen students' self-esteem, optimism and personal commitment, at the same time, develop their sense of ethical judgement and social responsibility. The school's Values program is based on R.E.S.P.E.C.T. (Resilience, Excellence, Safety, Persistence, Encouragement, Creativity and Tolerance). All classes focus on a Steps to Learning Model which forms the basis of social competency skill building, classroom organization and behaviour management throughout each school year.

The school's Student Welfare Co-ordinator oversees the student well-being area and co-ordinates student intervention programs including learning support, the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) and referrals to other agencies (primarily speech and psychological support). Additional student support is provided through the 'Boost' intervention program. A key part of the Welfare Co-ordinator's role is to advocate on behalf of the student and be a key link between parent, teacher, child and other agencies.

## **STAFF**

Striving for continuous improvement through capacity building of all staff is the challenge we have embraced at Glen Katherine. The way forward is to continually focus on improvements to teaching and learning. Building both clarity in understanding of curriculum content and consistency in curriculum implementation, improving individual and collective accountability and staying focussed on the needs of the students are key drivers of our school's continual improvement journey. Staff recognize the importance of developing and implementing programs that enable each student to feel safe, confident, successful, supported and challenged in their learning.

The school has a diverse mix of both highly experienced and new teaching staff, all of whom are enthusiastic and committed to ensuring excellent learning opportunities for children. Non-teaching staff are equally committed and capably support students, teachers and parents. A school administrative assistant oversees the management of first aid and students with special health needs, thus ensuring students with special needs are not overlooked.

## **PARENTS**

Parent participation and support is recognised as being essential to the continuing success of the school. There is no doubting the fact that children's learning is greatly enhanced when the home/school relationship is strong and connected. The continual strengthening of communications and home/school relationships is seen to be an integral part of ongoing school improvement. We value parent support, assistance and input and primarily stay connected through the weekly 'Linkletter', our school website, information evenings, class Blogs, Three Way Conferences, student diaries and direct teacher/parent contact. Parent involvement is clearly visible on School Council and subcommittees, Parents and Friends Association and project teams, through the Grade Communicator Program, in classrooms, in the canteen, on camps and excursions, at working bees and at fundraising events. This invaluable support adds vibrantly to the life and culture of the school and its wider

community and it also serves as a wonderful example of volunteering to our students and staff. Together, we can and do achieve!

### **IN SUMMARY**

Overall, Glen Katherine is a school characterized by excellence, enthusiasm, goodwill, commitment and ongoing improvement. Whilst it is a school that is proud of its traditions and achievements, at the same time, it continues to be committed to ongoing improvement in order to provide the best possible learning environment and educational opportunities and outcomes for all students. We do not take progress and success for granted and instead, continually look for ways to further improve.