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*The Northfield P-7 school community work collaboratively to develop lifelong learners and peace leaders through rigorous\* teaching and learning.*

*\*At Northfield we define 'rigour' as intentional, consistent, informed practice*

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## Northfield Preschool Philosophy Statement

At Northfield preschool we value each child and understand that their prior learning is unique and important. We seek to work together with families to understand and respect the strengths, interests and aspirations of the children, their cultures and communities. Positive relationships between educators, children and families hold the key to achieving the best outcomes for all. We invite families to contribute to our preschool program. As educators, we instill positive dispositions and a growth mindset to learning by incorporating a focus on interoception skills and developing executive function skills with support from key agencies. We know all children have the capacity to be capable, confident and successful learners.

Programming for learning in the preschool is play based and informed by Belonging, Being and Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, the DECD Preschool literacy and numeracy indicators and the Child Protection Curriculum. We understand the importance of flexible play spaces and seek to create environments that stretch, challenge, and provoke children's curiosity. We are strong advocates for outdoor play and connecting with nature. This influences our efforts to reduce our waste, reuse resources and learn more about sustainability. The Northfield preschool team are committed to continuous improvement via rigorous reflective practices ensuring a holistic planning and evaluating cycle is implemented for all children.

At Northfield we feel a strong connection to our surrounding community. We are stakeholders in the early years of our P-7 school and have collaborated across all year levels to advocate for the importance of play and shared learning. In 2018, our school focus areas are Literacy (Oral Language), Numeracy and Wellbeing for learning. We support the early development of these key pillars and foster the use of the same language to support the transition to Foundation. The Peace Code is another important element that guides our practice and teaches the values agreed upon by the Northfield community. We further foster our connection with the school community by regularly engaging in whole school events and inviting classes to come play in the preschool environment. We use our unique advantage of being a school based preschool to extensively support a smooth and ongoing transition for children from preschool to school throughout the entire year and beyond. Our goal is to develop lifelong learners. We network with outside agencies to support children and families learning and wellbeing. As staff we liaise with various networks and agencies to best support our own practice and development.

REVIEWED: March 2017, January 2018,

SOURCED: Julie Carmen – Special Educator DECD – interoception skills 2017  
Dr Donna Nitschke – Neuroscience – Executive Functions PD 2017  
Amy Blaylock – NRM Education Officer 2017, 2018  
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