



The Cottage School Inc.

PHILOSOPHY, VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Approved by Committee 27 October 2010

Cornerstones of The Cottage School Philosophy

- Nurturing children's spirit of inquiry and love of learning
- Development of meaningful learning programs
- Respect for individual development and choice
- Development of a non-competitive environment for learning
- Respect for the environment and regular outdoor learning opportunities
- Respect for diverse values and beliefs
- Consultation and considered decision making between community members. See Appendix 1-A:
Schools as Collaborative Learning Communities
- Careful use of resources.

Core Values and Guiding Principles

- Development of the whole child
- Respect for individual differences and rates of progress
- Children are engaged in activities that stimulate and challenge them
- A safe, supportive environment for social development
- A commitment to 'best practice' in teaching and ongoing professional development of staff
- Children participate in a wide range of learning experiences and cultural activities
- Small class sizes and a 'homelike' learning environment
- Regular outdoor learning experiences
- Different modes of thinking are fostered
- Interaction across age ranges – in class groups and in play times
- Respect for other cultures and celebration of diversity
- A cooperatively managed school system
- A healthy and effective food policy
- Sustainability is practiced
- Interaction between school and local community.