



STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our school community and explain the vision, mission and objectives of our school. ([Including Ministerial Order 870](#))

POLICY

Mount Waverley Secondary College is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. Our school recognises the importance of the partnership between our school and parents and carers to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe school environment for our students.

The programs and teaching at Mount Waverley Secondary College support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, **including a commitment to:**

- elected government
- the rule of law
- equal rights for all before the law
- freedom of religion
- freedom of speech and association
- the values of openness and tolerance

This policy outlines our school's vision, mission, objective, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website, our staff handbook and our values are outlined in the student diary and enrolment handbook.

To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our school community, we

- display posters that promote values in our school
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

OUR VISION AND OBJECTIVE

Mount Waverley Secondary College is an inclusive school. We affirm values which promote and foster the dignity of the individual and positive relationships. We are deeply committed to improving the school and community environment and are involved in social justice issues at a state, national and global level. Positive student, parent/carer and staff relationships are highly valued. The college emphasises the importance of 'Community, Choice and Engagement' which is our motto.

We strive to achieve our vision through the establishment of an ordered and nurturing environment that:



- sets high expectations
- develops confident learners with the skills, knowledge and attributes to reach their intellectual, social and personal potential
- promotes participation and engagement in learning within a supportive and caring environment
- establishes strong community relationships in a climate of mutual trust and respect
- fosters a culture where enthusiastic and highly skilled staff feel supported, motivated and committed to providing the best educational outcomes for all of our students
- delivers a broad range of curricular and co-curricular programs that rigorously prepare students for all post school pathways using agreed high quality practice teaching and learning strategies

MISSION

Mount Waverley Secondary College's mission is to provide a quality 21st Century education that develops each individual's potential to shape their future and contribute positively to their community.

VALUES

At Mount Waverley Secondary College we "treat every child as our own." That is what makes us such a special learning community. **Our values are:**



Integrity - we are committed and passionate about making sure we do our very best for every child in our care.

Learning - our students are spoiled for choice at our college with innovative programs and studies.

Excellence - our commitment is to provide our learning community with an academic curriculum that incorporates a broad knowledge base and skills.

Accountability - our learning community that focuses on the establishment of positive attitudes and perceptions between teachers and students and between other members of the college community.

Respect - we believe we have built a powerful learning community that models mutual respect and supports academic excellence.

Nurturing - our staff and wellbeing teams play a crucial role across the college in supporting our students to provide ongoing wellbeing.



BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Mount Waverley Secondary College acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture. We acknowledge a shared responsibility to create a positive learning environment for the children and young people at our school.

As principals and school leaders, we will:

- model positive behaviour and effective leadership
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- work collaboratively to create a school environment where respectful and safe behaviour is expected of everyone
- behave in a manner consistent with the standards of our profession and meet core responsibilities to provide safe and inclusive environments
- plan, implement and review our work to ensure the care, safety, security and general wellbeing of all students at school
- identify and support students who are or may be at risk
- do our best to ensure every child achieves their personal and learning potential
- work with parents to understand their child's needs and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- respond appropriately when safe and inclusive behaviour is not demonstrated and implement appropriate interventions and sanctions when required
- inform parents of the school's communication and complaints procedures
- ask any person who is acting in an offensive, intimidating or otherwise inappropriate way to leave the school grounds.

As teachers and non-teaching school staff, we will:

- model positive behaviour to students consistent with the standards of our profession
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- proactively engage with parents about student outcomes
- work with parents to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- work collaboratively with parents to improve learning and wellbeing outcomes for students with additional needs
- communicate with the principal and school leaders in the event we anticipate or face any tension or challenging behaviours from parents
- treat all members of the school community with respect.

As parents and carers, we will:

- model positive behaviour to our child
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- ensure our child attends school on time, every day the school is open for instruction
- take an interest in our child's school and learning
- work with the school to achieve the best outcomes for our child
- communicate constructively with the school and use expected processes and protocols when raising concerns
- support school staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students



- follow the school's processes for communication with staff and making complaints
- treat all school leaders, staff, students, and other members of the school community with respect.

As students, we will:

- model positive behaviour to other students
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community.
- comply with and model school values
- behave in a safe and responsible manner
- respect ourselves, other members of the school community and the school environment.
- actively participate in school
- not disrupt the learning of others and make the most of our educational opportunities.

As community members, we will:

- model positive behaviour to the school community
- treat other members of the school community with respect
- support school staff to maintain a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students
- utilise the school's processes for communication with staff and submitting complaints.

UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOURS

Schools are not public places, and the Principal has the right to permit or deny entry to school grounds (for more information, see our *Visitors Policy*).

Unreasonable behaviour that is demonstrated by school staff, parents, carers, students or members of our school community will not be tolerated at school, or during school activities.

Unreasonable behaviour includes:

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

Harassment, bullying, violence, aggression, threatening behaviour and unlawful discrimination are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at our school.

Unreasonable behaviour and/or failure to uphold the principles of this *Statement of Values and School Philosophy* may lead to further investigation and the implementation of appropriate consequences by the school Principal.

At the Principal's discretion, unreasonable 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

Inappropriate student behaviour will be managed in accordance with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Inclusion Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy*.

Our *Statement of Values and Communication Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy* ensures that everyone in our school community will be treated with fairness and respect. In turn, we will strive to create a school that is inclusive and safe, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Student Wellbeing and Inclusion Policy, Communication Policy, Bullying Prevention Policy.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on July 2021 and is scheduled for review in July 2024.