



Statement Of Values and College Philosophy

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our College community and explain the vision, mission and objectives of our College.

Policy:

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

The programs and teaching at Whittlesea 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 College's vision, mission, objective, values and expectations of our College community. This policy is available on our College website and staff induction handbook.

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

- display posters and banners that promote our values at the College
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values

Our Vision

At Whittlesea Secondary College, our vision is to provide the best possible education that empowers every student to become a capable, confident, and resilient **twenty-first century learner**, prepared to navigate future challenges, contribute positively to their community, and thrive in a changing world.



Our Objective

Our College's objectives are considered as part of the 4 yearly strategic planning process and reflected in the goals listed in our current School Strategic Plan (SSP). We also develop an Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) to operationalise the goals and key improvement strategies contained in our SSP.

Our Mission

Our mission is to deliver high-quality education in a safe, orderly, and inclusive learning environment that optimises learning growth and supports the wellbeing of all students. Through a guaranteed and viable curriculum, consistent high-quality instructional practice, and the effective use of assessment and data, we ensure all students can access learning and achieve their full potential. We work in partnership with students, families, and the broader community to implement a multi-tiered system of support, strengthen student voice and connectedness, and provide meaningful career education and pathways planning that prepares students for life beyond school.

Our Values

At Whittlesea Secondary College, our values guide how we learn, work, and care for one another. They underpin our commitment to excellence, inclusion, and student success. Together, these values support safe, inclusive learning environments, maximise learning growth, and empower students to become confident, capable twenty-first century learners.

Application

We encourage effort, curiosity, and persistence in learning. Students are supported to take positive risks, apply their learning, and embrace a growth mindset, understanding that progress comes through practice and reflection.

Attitude

We show pride in our College and respect for each other and our learning environments. We value diversity, kindness, collaboration, and empathy, recognising that strong relationships and inclusive behaviours support learning and wellbeing for all.

Achievement

We hold high expectations for ourselves and others and celebrate both individual and collective success. Students are supported to set goals, monitor their progress, and strive for continuous improvement.



Behavioural Expectations

Whittlesea 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 College.

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 College environment where respectful and safe behaviour is expected of everyone
- Ensure all parents/carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the Department's Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy
- 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 our College
- 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 College 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 College 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 College community with respect.



As parents and carers, we will:

- Model positive behaviour to our child
- Communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the College community, in line with the Department's Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy.
- Ensure our child attends the College on time, every day the College is open for instruction
- Take an interest in our child's school and learning
- Work with the College to achieve the best outcomes for our child
- Communicate constructively with the school and use expected processes and protocols when raising concerns
- Support College staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students
- Follow the College's processes for communication with staff and making complaints
- Treat all College leaders, staff, students, and other members of the College community with respect.

As students, we will:

- Model positive behaviour to other students
- Communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the College community
- Comply with and model College values
- Behave in a safe and responsible manner
- Respect ourselves, other members of the College community and the College environment
- Actively participate in College classes and learning activities
- Not disrupt the learning of others and make the most of our educational opportunities.

As community members, we will:

- Model positive behaviour to the College community
- Treat other members of the school community with respect
- Support College staff to maintain a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students
- Utilise the College'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 College staff, parents, carers, students or members of our College community will not be tolerated at the College, or during school activities.



Unreasonable behaviour includes:

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

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

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 according with our College's [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#) and [Bullying Prevention Policy](#).

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

Communication:

This policy will be communicated to our College community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our College website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Made available in hard copy from College administration upon request



Further Information and Resources:

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community](#)
- [Respectful Workplaces](#)
- [Parent Complaints](#)
- [Work-Related Violence in Schools](#)

Policy Review and Approval:

Policy last reviewed	February 2026
Consultation	Principal Executive, College Leadership teams, School Council.
Policy approved	School Council March 2026
Next scheduled review date	February 2030