

Statement of Values and School Philosophy

Reviewed by: Consultative Committee
and School Council

Date reviewed: June 2019

Date of next review: June 2022

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____



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.

After thorough community consultation during 2018, the new school values were updated by the end of that year.

Implementation guide:

Is it compulsory for all Victorian government schools to have a policy addressing this issue? Yes, a school policy addressing this issue is required by the Minimum Standards for school registration (and school reviews).

Does this policy have to be approved by school council? Yes.

Recommended consultation: It is recommended that school council be consulted and its views should be taken into account when you adopt this policy, as the sections in this template that are marked in yellow should be tailored to your school community.

What is the basis of this policy? Minimum Standards for school registration (and school reviews); Common law duty of care.

Implementation:

- This policy should be publicly available
- Refer to this policy when managing challenging parent behaviour.
- Promote this policy within the school community and in the classroom.
- To ensure that our values are embedded in our school community, consider:
 - displaying posters or banners that promote our values at school in high traffic areas such as the office or entrance
 - referencing our values in regular communication to parents (for example, in school newsletters)
 - creating awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
 - encouraging staff to explore our school values with students
 - discussing our values in school assemblies.

Recommended review cycle: 3-4 years

Further information and resources:

Related policies:

Student Wellbeing and Engagement

Bullying Prevention Policy

Visitors Policy

Communication with School Staff

Respect for School Staff

References:

Child Safe Standards – Managing the risk of child abuse in schools, Ministerial Order No. 870

Definitions:

NIL

Review Cycle:

This policy was last updated in June 2019 and is scheduled for review in June 2022.

POLICY:

Mount Beauty 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 Beauty 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.

Also, in accordance with the *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017*, the school will provide a secular education and will not promote any particular religious practice, denomination or sect, and is open to adherents of any philosophy, religion or faith.

This policy outlines our school's vision, mission, objective, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website and in our staff handbook, student planner and enrolment/transition packs (included in the Transition, Middle School and Senior School Handbooks).

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

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

VISION:

"Confidence to aspire ever upward".

Mount Beauty Secondary College provides a quality education in a safe environment. With a culture of respect for all, we meet the diverse needs of our students.

Students are encouraged to be confident and respectful, aspiring ever upward, to prepare for a productive future.

MISSION:

Mount Beauty Secondary College's mission is to ensure all our students will be able to realise their full academic and personal potential, feel empowered and become strong and resilient young people of great character.

OBJECTIVE:

Mount Beauty Secondary College's objective is to provide a quality education to ensure all students strive for excellence in a supportive environment.

VALUES:

Mount Beauty Secondary College's values are aspiration, confidence and respect.

Aspiration: We aim high for excellence. We are diligent and motivated.

Confidence: We have pride in ourselves and our abilities. We are prepared to give things a go, even if we know we may not succeed.

Respect: We respect ourselves, our school and each other. We understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people around us. We embrace individuality and promote equality and understanding at all times.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS:

Mount Beauty 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 students at our school.

As principals and school leaders, we will:

- model positive behaviour and effective leadership
- model our school values
- 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 academic 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
- model our school values
- 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 correspondence
- discriminatory 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 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 Engagement Policy* and *Bullying Prevention Policy*.

Our *Statement of Values and School Philosophy* 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.