

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Help for non-English speakers: If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school on 98398800 / 97363650.

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.

POLICY

Yarra Hills 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 Yarra Hills 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, at staff induction, and in our Policies section on Moodle, and in abbreviated form in our student diary, enrolment/transition packs, and other school communications and promotional materials.

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

- displays, posters and banners that promote your values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- embed our values in our pastoral teaching and learning program
- use them as the basis of our School-wide Positive Behaviour Support program
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

VISION

Yarra Hills Secondary College's vision is to be the school of choice for the local community, providing the highest quality educational outcomes, extension and enrichment to all students in a supportive and inclusive environment.

MISSION

Our mission is to provide opportunities, experiences and pathways that enable all students to reach their full potential while reinforcing the importance of our College Values. Yarra Hills' students should graduate from the school with a sense of pride, confidence and curiosity about the world around them, be respectful in their relationships, accepting of all others and aspire to be lifelong learners and positive contributors to society.

VALUES

Yarra Hills Secondary College values are **Respect, Endeavour, Achievement, and Pride.**

Respect – We value diversity and consideration for self and others

Endeavour – We encourage positive risk taking and best effort in all that we do

Achievement – We strive for excellence and success

Pride – We take pride in our work, our actions and ourselves

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Yarra Hills 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, our school's values, and effective leadership
- communicate politely, appropriately, 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

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

- model positive behaviour, and our school's values, to students consistent with the standards of our profession
- communicate politely, appropriately, and respectfully with all members of the school community
- proactively engage with parents about student learning and 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.
- strive to enact and embody the school values
- comply with school rules
- 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, social media posts 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 according with our school's *Student Engagement & Wellbeing Policy*, and *Bully Prevention Policy*, and as summarised in our annual *Junior School and Senior School handbooks*.

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.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff policy manual

It is referenced, or included in an abbreviated form, in our student diary, enrolment/transition packs, and in other school communications and promotional materials and events such as: newsletters; the college's prospectus; information sessions; editorials; social media posts, and; assemblies and award ceremonies.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

YHSC Inclusion & Diversity policy

YHSC Bully Prevention policy

YHSC Student Engagement & Wellbeing policy

YHSC Visitor policy

YHSC Code of Conduct

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2021
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	2025 review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years