

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.

Mission

To provide a supportive and dynamic learning environment that challenges all members of the college community to perform to their personal best. We will promote an atmosphere of mutual respect, tolerance, understanding and cooperation. This will enable our students to thrive in a diverse and changing world.

Vision

*Western Port Secondary College **empowers** our **community** to grow and **achieve** together through **CARE**, innovation and **excellence***

Core Values

The four core values for Western Port Secondary College are:

- ◆ *Community*
- ◆ *Achievement*
- ◆ *Respect*
- ◆ *Engagement.*

The programs and teaching Western Port 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.

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

- appoint leadership captains at all year levels for our core values
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

Behavioural expectations

WPSC 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/cares to understand their young person'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/carers 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/carers about student outcomes
- work with parents/carers to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- work collaboratively with parents/carers 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
- 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 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 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 staff to maintain a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students
- utilise College 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.

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 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 College 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 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 College that is inclusive and safe, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.

Acknowledgement of Country and welcome to Western Port Secondary College

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land of the Kulin nation on which we meet and pay my respects to the Elders past and present.

Welcome to Western Port Secondary College.

I would like to welcome everyone to Western Port Secondary College. We acknowledge and respect the First Peoples of Australia and their connection to Country. We undertake to learn, respect and take care of the land, waterways and skies and the plants, animals and people within it.

Womin Djeka – ‘come with purpose’

We respectfully acknowledge the diversity, background and experiences of all people involved in our college – staff, students and visitors. We undertake to work together positively, productively and respectfully, irrespective of race, gender, cultural differences, religion, orientation or personal beliefs.

Thank you and welcome.

Chris Quinn

Principal

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our College website
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

Policy last reviewed	June 2023
Consultation	June 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	February 2026