



STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY POLICY

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Authorised by:
Principal

Consultation: **School Council & Community**

Approved by School Council:
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Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact [insert school contact details].

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:

Horsham 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 Horsham 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 and communicated to staff and students.

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

- display 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
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

Vision:

Horsham College's vision is to seize opportunities for a better future.

Mission:

Horsham College's mission is that our school community values unique individuals and empowers them to achieve their potential.

Objective:

Horsham College's objective is to assist students reach their maximum potential. Horsham College acknowledges everyone has a right to feel safe, accepted and included when engaging with the school. We will provide for diversity and are committed to delivering stimulating individualised approaches in education. Students are empowered to take responsibility for their learning. We will nurture the individual and foster the development of resilience so that our students are able to leave school well prepared for their future. The school will create positive relationships to provide opportunities for our students to develop connections with their communities and an understanding of the world around them. We commit to providing a school that is fair, accessible and flexible and in which unlawful discrimination, bullying, harassment, child abuse or victimisation are not tolerated.

Values:

Horsham College's values are:

Commitment:

- ✓ Act in the best interests of the school community
- ✓ Continually learn and improve
- ✓ Expect high standards of self and each other
- ✓ Meet responsibilities and embrace opportunities

Care:

- ✓ Build and maintain positive relationships
- ✓ Act with respect and empathy
- ✓ Show gratitude
- ✓ Demonstrate kindness and concern for others

Character:

- ✓ Stay calm and consistent
- ✓ Be confident and open minded
- ✓ Acknowledge and learn from mistakes
- ✓ Enjoy our successes

Collaboration:

- ✓ Give and receive constructive feedback
- ✓ Value all input and ideas
- ✓ Share the load

Behavioural Expectations:

Horsham 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. Staff have a range of expectations around behaviour and must follow our school and Department policies and the Victorian Public Service Code of Conduct and Values. Teaching staff also adhere to the [Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#).

Students are supported by school staff to meet expected standards of behaviour as outlined in our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Inclusion and Diversity Policy, and our Bullying Prevention Policy.

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, in line with the Department's Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy.
- 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:

- 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 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 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 according with our school's [Student Welfare, 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.

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 as annual reference school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

Related policies and resources

Department of Education policies and resources:

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

Horsham College policies:

- [Student Welfare, Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- [Communication with School Staff Policy](#)

- [Inclusion and Diversity Policy](#)
- [Bullying Prevention Policy](#)

Review Cycle and Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.