



# Sunbury College 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.

## POLICY

Sunbury 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 Sunbury 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.

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

Sunbury College envisions our students as engaged learners and independent thinkers that are met at point of need as partners in their learning – where education matters, emotional, social and physical wellbeing is nurtured, and pathways for all students are maximized

## MISSION

Sunbury College is committed to the provision of a positive, safe and caring learning environment that benefits all and promotes the achievement of success and excellence.

## OBJECTIVE

Our school'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 to operationalise the goals and key improvement strategies contained in our SSP.

## VALUES

Sunbury College's values are Respect, Resilience, Responsibility and Endeavour.

Our values are lifestyle priorities that are of significant personal importance and direct our behaviours. They underlie our sense of right and wrong and inform the way in which we conduct ourselves. The values of our school reflect those of our wider community and the nation to which we belong. Our school values reflect our commitment to providing a holistic education. Our aim is to develop students' key personal attributes to embrace opportunities, navigate the challenges of life and succeed academically.

In line with the values of Respect, Resilience, Responsibility and Endeavour, we have developed a comprehensive statement of behaviours that informs the way we live our values within and beyond the school.

RESPECT	RESILIENCE
<p><b>"We value ourselves, others and our environment"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I value the rights of others to learn and teachers to teach</li><li>• I accept the unique qualities of others</li><li>• I listen to others</li><li>• I speak and behave courteously</li><li>• I take care of my property and respect the property of others</li><li>• I take pride in the college environment</li><li>• I act in a way that earns trust from others</li></ul>	<p><b>"We are strong, healthy and successful"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I do my best even when things are challenging</li><li>• I 'bounce back' from difficult situations</li><li>• I have a positive attitude</li><li>• I try strategies to improve my mindset</li><li>• I attend school</li></ul>
RESPONSIBILITY	ENDEAVOUR
<p><b>"We are accountable for our actions"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I take responsibility for my learning by being on time, organised and prepared for class</li><li>• I think before I act</li><li>• I accept the consequences of my actions</li><li>• I wear the correct college uniform</li><li>• I follow our school rules and procedures</li><li>• I take action to improve things that are not right</li><li>• I speak up for the rights of others</li></ul>	<p><b>"We constantly strive for excellence"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I set and work towards achieving my challenging goals</li><li>• I show initiative</li><li>• I am proactive in seeking learning opportunities</li><li>• I lead when the chance presents</li><li>• I actively participate in our community</li><li>• I am a productive learner</li></ul>

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Sunbury 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 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
- 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 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 and carers to understand the needs of each student
- respond appropriately when safe and inclusive behaviour is not demonstrated and implement appropriate interventions and sanctions when required
- inform parents and 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 about student outcomes
- work with parents and carers to understand the needs of each student
- work collaboratively with parents and 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 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](#) and *Sunbury College's Respect for School Staff 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.
- comply with all school policies

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 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.

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

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

School policies:

- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*
- *Inclusion and Diversity Policy*
- *Bullying Prevention Policy*
- *Parent Complaints Policy*
- *Visitor Policy*
- *Respect for School Staff Policy*

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2022
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	June 2026