



Statement of Values and School Philosophy

1. 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.

2. Policy

Victoria University 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/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 VUSC 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, our staff intranet and our staff induction handbook.

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

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

3. Vision

Victoria University Secondary College is a learning community where all staff learn to work together to continuously improve, and where students are guided to discover their talents, enjoy their educational journey and develop goals for their future.

Our vision is for students to be educated and enabled to 'Create the Future': their own future, their communities' future and the global future. Students create their future by Aspiring to Achieve, Strengthening the Community and Respecting Ourselves and Others.

Our vision is future focused and empowering. We aim to encourage visionary thinking; to enable members of our learning community to adapt to an ever changing world and prepare for global challenges; to be adaptive and flexible in their thinking and to have the skills to engage with current and emerging



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technologies. We empower members of our learning community to develop control over their own thinking and actions, develop the self-belief and confidence to persevere with learning challenges and tasks and to take initiative and act.

4. Objectives

Victoria University Secondary College's objectives are to enable all members of our learning community to be curious and make connections so they develop the skills to create effective and respectful learning relationship within the school and the wider community. Teachers enable students to relate new learning to prior knowledge, explore the relevant concepts learnt to the individual, local and wider community and connect their knowledge to future opportunities.

Our school develops critical thinkers who are able to work collaboratively. Active and engaged learners share ideas and resources to evaluate and make judgements about new knowledge and to test its quality, value and reliability so they can form an evidence based opinion. A focus on reflective thinking develops Independent learners.

At VUSC we believe all students can succeed with effort and persistence. We teach our students to aim for excellence in all that they do.

5. Values

Students at Victoria University Secondary College are taught to:

1. Aspire to Achieve – by valuing hard work, effort and commitment to learning
2. Strengthen the Community – by contributing to the school, local and global community
3. Respect Ourselves and Others – by behaving in ways that they would like others to behave towards them.

Our values are supported by the following beliefs:

- All members of the school community share high expectations and a commitment to learning. This is fostered by positive relationships that are underpinned by mutual respect and acknowledgement of the shared responsibility we have for embracing opportunity.
- Through hard work and perseverance, success is obtainable by all. The school creates opportunities for all to experience and celebrate achievement.
- Learning partnerships with the wider community, including business and educational communities, create vital opportunities for growth and development and are mutually enriching.
- Our vision and values combine to create a safe, supportive and well-disciplined environment where every student is guided and inspired to achieve the best of their ability.

6. Behavioural expectations

Victoria University 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.



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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
- 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



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- 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.

7. 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 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 Principal.



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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 and Management Policy* and *Bullying and Harassment 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.

8. Review cycle

This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the school review cycle.