

Warrandyte High School

Statement of Values & School Philosophy



POLICY

Warrandyte High School 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 Warrandyte High School 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 induction handbook and our student diary.

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

- display posters and banners that promote the values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values through Compass Positive Chronicles
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.
- Align our values to our 'WHS School-Wide High Expectations' Framework and our RESPECT5 Behaviour Support Framework

VISION

Warrandyte High School's vision is that **every day** we:

'Challenge every learner to thrive in a safe and supportive environment built upon academic foundations'

Embedded in this vision are the following beliefs:

- *All members of our school community have the capacity to be active learners through support and extension*
- *All members of our school community learn best when they feel safe and supported; emotionally, socially and physically*
- *All members of our school community can show growth and flourish through dedication and hard work*
- *All members of our school community will develop the necessary skills and qualities to thrive as active citizens in the 21st century in their chosen pathway*

VALUES

Underpinning our school vision are four important values: **RISE – Respect, Integrity, Strength and Excellence.**

- ❖ **Respect** – due regard for the feelings, wishes, and rights of others
- ❖ **Integrity** – the quality of being honest, fair, and having strong moral principles
- ❖ **Strength** – showing resilience, determination, and a positive mindset in the face of challenges
- ❖ **Excellence** – the quality of excelling or being outstanding and producing your personal best

MISSION

The school **Mission** stands on four key pillars of growth:

1. **Expect my best** – take learning risks to achieve my best
2. **Stretch myself** – challenge myself to go further
3. **Reflect** – always learn from previous experience
4. **Be accountable** – take responsibility for my learning and actions

MOTTO

‘Growth through challenge’

Encapsulating a growth mindset that sees all students and members of the school strive for continuous learning and personal growth while embracing the challenges that will be encountered.

PURPOSE

Articulated by two areas of growth:

- **Learning Growth** – determination to take action around your learning, to have voice and agency, and to maximise your outcomes
- **Personal Growth** – to strive for your personal best, recognising that each student follows a unique path to future success while respecting and valuing the diverse needs of others.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Warrandyte High School 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 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
- ensure all parents/carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- 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
- 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.

We expect all members of our school community to demonstrate positive behaviours at all times. The following behaviours are examples of behaviours we will not tolerate as a school community;

- 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.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on school website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Annual reference in school newsletter

- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

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

Example school policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	November 2025
Consultation	School Council, November 2025
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	November 2028