

## Statement of Values and School Philosophy

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### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the front office: 9744 0500.

### 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 Downs 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 Downs 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 School Philosophy in our community, we

- display posters and banners that promote 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

The Sunbury Downs College vision is to be a progressive, inclusive and caring coeducational school. We value a holistic approach to student growth and development. We aspire to provide a comprehensive and diverse curriculum catering for variety of learning styles and to provide a wide range of extra-curricular programs promoting the attainment of successful outcomes, including quality pathways and destinations for all students.

### MISSION

The Sunbury Downs College mission is to create a positive learning environment that fosters collaboration and cooperation with shared expectations of educational success. The community collectively supports and fosters learning growth along with the sharing of responsibility for the

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development of our students. We strive to develop young people who have the skills and knowledge to be valuable contributors to the wider community and society in general.

### OBJECTIVE

The Sunbury Downs College motto is 'Confidence to Achieve'.

The College Motto and Vision are supported by the educational philosophy below. This underpins classroom practices and teaching actions across the College.

Our Educational Philosophy is:

- We believe outstanding teaching produces high quality learning outcomes.
- A welcoming, safe, and orderly learning environment is a precondition for successful teaching and learning.
- Students develop responsibility for their own learning, progress and behaviour. This occurs when all learners are engaged with differentiated and challenging learning.
- We create confident, resilient, reflective and independent life learners.
- Sunbury Downs College fosters authentic respectful relationships so learning is enjoyed and students may achieve their full potential.

Our school's objectives are considered as part of the four 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 Downs College's Values are Respect, Resilience, Ambition and Community.

- We respect ourselves, our school and each other, and understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people around us.
- We model resilience by acknowledging challenges as an opportunity for growth.
- We are ambitious as we approach learning with positivity and a growth mindset, and work together to achieve the best possible outcome.
- We are a community by participating actively in community initiatives and events, and interact with each other inclusively and responsibly.

### BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Sunbury Downs College acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture.

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](#).

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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 Bullying Prevention Policy.

Information about the expectations on parents and carers to ensure schools remain respectful and inclusive places is outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#) and our Respect for School Staff Policy.

### 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 according 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.

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### 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 in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from the General Administration office upon request.

### 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](#)

Sunbury Downs College policies:

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

### POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy created	August 2023
Consultation	Consultation occurred with School Council and the staff at Sunbury Downs College. The school community via an offer to provide feedback on child safety policies and procedures as outlined on our website.
Approved by	Principal and School Council – 7 September 2023
Next scheduled review date	August 2026