

Murtoa College

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY POLICY



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.

Rationale:

Murtoa 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 Murtoa 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

Objective:

This policy outlines Murtoa College'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 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

Implementation:

Vision:

For students to develop skills that enable them to succeed in everyday life and pursue their aspirations and passions. We aim to nurture students to become respectful, compassionate and tolerant citizens, ready to contribute to their community.

Mission:

Inspiring Young Minds to grow into Lifelong Learners.

Collective Commitment:

We will work professionally and collaboratively by following our expectations and implementing college initiatives.

Objectives:

- To improve the learning growth of all students in all areas.
- All students are motivated in their learning. They have a strong sense of belonging and connectedness to the college and their peers.
- To maintain a safe and respectful environment for the whole college community.
- To effectively allocate and use resources (human, physical and financial) to achieve the goals in Achievement, Engagement and Wellbeing.

Murtoa College is a Child Safe School

Values:**Respect**

- to value ourselves and others
- to treat others as we like to be treated
- to look after our belongings and our world

Enthusiasm

- being excited and positive
- giving 100% to all you do

Honesty

- being open and trustworthy
- being truthful in your words and actions

Responsibility

- others can depend on you
- if you make a mistake, you make amends, not excuses

Cooperation

- working together for the good of everyone

Courtesy

- being polite and respectful to others

Caring

- giving love and attention to people and things that matter to you

Friendliness

- being a friend
- taking an interest in other people
- making others feel welcome

Excellence

- doing your best
- aiming for the highest standard or level

Commitment

- the ability to make decisions and follow through on them
- to care deeply

Behavioural Expectations:

Murtoa 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 School Improvement Team (SIT) 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 teacher staff and education support 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.

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 school 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 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.

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 in our staff handbook
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Discussed at student forums
- Made available in hard copy from the school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	May 2021
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	November 2024