

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Melbourne High School on (03) 9826 0711 or mhs@mhs.vic.edu.au

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the vision and mission of Melbourne High School and explain the values and expectations of our school community. It is accessible on our school website, in our staff induction handbooks, student diaries and enrolment/transition packs.

POLICY

Melbourne High School is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. Melbourne High 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 and maintaining an inclusive and safe school environment for our students.

The programs and teaching at Melbourne 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.

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

- display posters and banners promoting our values
- recognise, in our school newsletter, events and individuals reflecting our values
- provide awards and recognition for students actively demonstrating our values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

VISION

Melbourne High School's vision is to provide an environment that enables highly capable, aspirational learners the opportunity to flourish: to be courageous in their learning endeavours and audacious in their contribution to the communities they serve.

MISSION

Melbourne High School's mission is to provide a well-rounded liberal education that prepares our students for the future.

Our students are required to combine their academic studies with an equal emphasis upon co-curricular pursuits. Students are expected to develop a strong sense of personal integrity and a commitment to active citizenship.

The school will nurture in our students the capabilities required to lead successful and socially responsible lives in the twenty-first century. These capabilities are based upon the National Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians. Fostering these capabilities is the collective responsibility of the student, their family, the school and the community.

Successful learners:

- Study a curriculum that embraces all learning areas and balances breadth and depth of focus
- Can think critically and deeply within and across learning areas
- Are creative and innovative in their thinking and application of learning
- Take responsibility for their learning and are motivated to reach their full potential
- Can work independently and collaborate in teams and effectively communicate ideas
- Are lifelong learners with the agility to adapt to changing circumstances

Confident and creative individuals:

- Manage their emotional, mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing
- Establish and maintain healthy and satisfying lives
- Are enterprising, show initiative and use their creative abilities
- Develop personal capabilities such as honesty, resilience, empathy and respect for others
- Relate well to others and form and maintain healthy relationships
- Are well-prepared for life roles in their family, community and the workforce
- Are optimistic, make rational decisions and accept responsibility for their actions

Active and Informed Citizens:

- Are responsible and active global and local citizens
- Appreciate and respect individual, cultural, social and religious diversity
- Relate to and communicate across diverse cultures
- Demonstrate a commitment to the values of democracy, equity and justice
- Develop a personal ethical understanding and act with integrity
- Exercise civic leadership for the common good

VALUES

Melbourne High School's values are:

Integrity

Acting honestly with only the strongest moral and ethical principles.

Responsibility

Being accountable for our actions.

Respect

Valuing difference.

Growth

Challenging ourselves to achieve beyond perceived capabilities.

‘Honour the Work’, the school motto, means applying yourself to all endeavours with purpose, perseverance and academic integrity to achieve the best outcome possible.

Melbourne High School is committed to excellence by:

- Challenging every student to achieve their potential, beyond perceived capabilities
- Recognising and developing academic and co-curricular achievement
- Providing challenging, engaging and inclusive teaching
- Supporting the highest professional expectations amongst staff

Melbourne High School is committed to tradition with a vision for the future by:

- Appreciating and upholding the traditions of the school’s rich heritage
- Developing the capacity to adapt quickly to change and embrace innovation
- Developing the capacity to confidently meet the challenges of changing circumstances and global citizenship

Melbourne High School is committed to the development of socially responsible and well-rounded individuals by:

- Providing an education for all aspects of future life
- Fostering integrity, creativity, teamwork, leadership and the care of others
- Supporting humour, inquiry, pragmatism, balance, optimism, resilience and high aspirations
- Developing the capacity for self-determination, a global perspective and social responsibility

Melbourne High School is committed to an involved and diverse school community by:

- Providing students, parents and staff with a sense of belonging to a community with clear goals as articulated in our strategic plan.
- Encouraging and expecting the involvement of all members of the school community
- Fostering empathy, intercultural understanding, respect, cooperation and harmony
- Supporting social responsibility in a local, national and international context.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Melbourne High School 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 including [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#) and the [Victorian Public Service Code of Conduct and Values](#). Teaching staff also adhere to the [Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#).

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, 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
- Harassment, bullying and unlawful discrimination
- 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.

Unreasonable behaviour and/or failure to uphold the principles of this [Statement of Values and School Philosophy](#) may lead to further investigation and sanctions.

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 or appropriate law enforcement agency
- legal action.

Inappropriate student behaviour will be managed in according with our school's [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#) and [Bullying Prevention Policy](#).

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	New policy
Approved by	School Council 18 th June 2024
Next scheduled review date	June 2026