

Statement of Values and School Philosophy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Portland Secondary College on 03 5523 1344 or portland.sc@education.vic.gov.au.

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

Portland 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 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 Portland Secondary 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.

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 Knowledge Base and is published in an early newsletter each year.

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

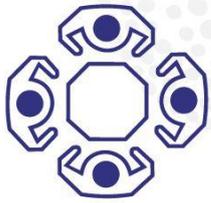
- display posters and banners that promote your values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

VISION

At Portland Secondary College our purpose is to provide a safe and supportive learning community that offers all students the opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge and dispositions needed to become successful, creative, resilient and respectful learners.

MISSION

We strive to create an environment where high expectations, a wealth of opportunities, and dedicated professional growth enable students to embody our core values.



Portland Secondary College

Creating the Opportunities...

At Portland Secondary College we strive to create an environment where high expectations, a wealth of opportunities, and dedicated professional growth enable students to embody our core values.

OBJECTIVE

Our school's objectives are considered as part of the 4 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

Portland Secondary College's values are Respect, Success, Resilience and Creativity. We treat ourselves and others with consideration, being courteous at all times and acknowledging diversity and rights of others. We are successful when we strive to do our very best, being dedicated to learning and reaching our goals. We show resilience by persevering through challenges and by working together with a focus on positive outcomes. We take ownership of our behaviour and actions, persistently contributing in a positive way across all parts of the College. We demonstrate creativity when we use our initiative to have a positive impact as a global citizen.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Portland 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.

Shared expectations of staff, parents, carers and students to support positive student behaviour are set out in the [Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour statement](#).

Students are also 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 which are all located on our website.

Staff 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's Code of Conduct](#).

Parents and carers play a vital role in helping their child understand and meet shared behaviour expectations. Additionally, information about the expectations of parents and carers to ensure schools remain respectful and inclusive places is outlined in the department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#).

UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOURS

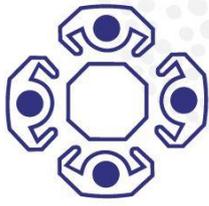
Schools are not public places, and the Principal has the right to permit or deny entry to school grounds (for more information, see our Visitors Policy).

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

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- 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.

COMMUNICATION

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

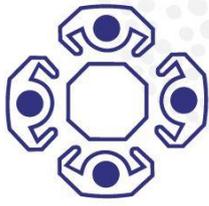
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in the staff Knowledge Base
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- [Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour](#)

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Creating the Opportunities...

Our school policies and documents can be found at portlandsc.vic.edu.au/our-school/policies/
Relevant Policies and documents:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Respect for School Staff Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	February 2025 – Version 4
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	February 2028