

# Statement of Values and School Philosophy

## Help for non-English speakers



If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the General Office.

## 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

Mickleham 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 Mickleham 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 handbook, and enrolment/transition packs. To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our community, we:

- display posters and banners that promote our 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

Mickleham Secondary College's vision is to co-create an inclusive, supportive learning community where people strive to achieve their best.

## Mission

Mickleham Secondary College's mission is to make a difference to each individual and provide them with the best opportunities for their future.

## 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

Mickleham Secondary College's values are **Achievement, Respect, Community, Honesty**.

**Achievement** reflects the purpose of education in that, all students should be aiming to achieve their personal best. Recognising that our own achievement will look different to others. Achievement means that students maintain a focus on their learning, improving their skills and knowledge and achieving their personal best.

We can do this by:

- attending school everyday
- setting high expectations
- setting goals
- trying our best at everything we do
- keeping commitments
- seeking and accepting help or feedback as necessary
- valuing group and individual successes
- encouraging others.

**Respect** means being respectful to ourselves and one another. We value individual differences. Maintaining a positive attitude and behaviour towards others also allows us to become role models.

We can do this by:

- listening actively
- being considerate of others
- showing unconditional positive regard for others
- using our manners
- being aware of others personal space
- being considerate of others' feelings and safety
- using our own, others and school equipment with care
- keeping spaces clean.

**Community** is built through everyone working together to support one another. We value our school community and the wider community. We aim to build a sense of belonging, pride and positivity within our community.

We can do this by:

- respecting and looking out for others
- being a team player and learning to collaborate
- accepting that every individual has worth and can make a significant contribution
- taking pride in our school and respecting the spaces created for us
- contributing to events and activities
- developing ideas that help those around us
- forming and participating in positive group activities or events
- expressing care and concern through action.

**Honesty** is important to develop and ensure we are truthful, trustworthy and live with our values in mind. This involves being responsible and having integrity.

We can do this by:

- being truthful, open and transparent in all situations
- understanding that we all make mistakes
- reflect and learn from our mistakes
- model the school values
- accepting consequences for our actions
- ask questions, raise issues, speak up
- report any unsafe behaviours or situations.

## Behavioural expectations

Mickleham 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.

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
- ensure all parents/carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- 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 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, in line with the Department's Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy
- 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
- follow and model the 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:

- 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.

## 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 transition and enrolment packs
- included as annual reference in school newsletter
- made available in hard copy from General Office upon request.

## Related Policies and resources

- The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL) and resources:
  - [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
  - [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- Related Policies:
  - Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
  - Inclusion and Diversity Policy
  - Bullying Prevention Policy
  - Parent Complaints Policy
  - Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
  - Complaints Policy
  - Duty of Care Policy

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