

## 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

*Mildura Senior 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 *Mildura Senior 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 College website, our Staff Induction Handbook and Student Handbook.

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.

## Values

At Mildura Senior College, we value **Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Independence and Success**. These values are at the core of all that we do and how we work together. We are a Respectful Relationships School and a Safe School. This is about embedding a culture of respect and equality across our entire community, from our classrooms to staffrooms, sporting fields and social events. This approach leads to positive impacts on students' academic outcomes, their mental health, classroom behaviour and relationships between teachers and students so that every student has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

We respect and celebrate diversity in our students, in our staff and in our community. The College is a discrimination free zone and we ask all of our families to help us to support this approach.

## Vision

This policy outlines our school's vision, mission, objective, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our College website, our Staff Induction Handbook and Student Handbook.

The College strategic plan encapsulates the College's vision for its own future and is a formal agreement between the College Council and the DET. The Strategic Plan also provides a framework for the allocation of resources within the school and will be the starting point in reviewing the College's overall performance. It is intended to be an enabling rather than constraining document. The Annual Implementation Plan outlines the goals and key implementation strategies.

Reviewed date:	03.02.2020	Review #	1	Page #	1
----------------	------------	----------	---	--------	---

## Goals:

- To improve the learning growth and achievement outcomes for every student.
- To improve students' engagement in their learning and schooling and build the level of wellbeing for every student.

## At Mildura Senior College, we aim to deliver:

- Access to a rich and broad senior curriculum.
- Excellence in education and training pathways for all students.
- Growth in our students' learning levels and their social and emotional wellbeing

## Mission

The College's mission is to improve student outcomes, and will always strive to ensure:

- All students achieve success in their chosen pathway.
- The existence of mutual respect in the College.
- The development of a reflective learning community committed to continuous improvement in student outcomes.
- That students develop respect, resilience, independence and social responsibility.
- Our students have a greater connection to their community.

## This is achieved through:

- Building a culture of MUTUAL respect.
- Supporting each other to build resilience.
- Role modelling responsible behaviours.
- Creating opportunities for independence.
- Learning and social development.
- Recognising success on all levels for all students.

The College promotes and provides a young adult learning environment which is oriented to developing students for the adult world they are entering. The learning environment is therefore dependent upon a partnership between teacher/education support and student, the recognition of the emerging independence of the student and on the fundamental orientation of the College towards learning. Support, combined with opportunities to exercise growing independence and self-discipline, underpins all practices. The College has a strong belief that this learning environment will assist students gain success at the VCE/VCAL level and prepare them to enter a range of post-school options. Restorative Practice forms the basis of the approach to student/staff relationships.

## Behavioural Expectations

*Mildura Senior 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 Mildura Senior College staff, we will:

- Provide highly qualified staff who know their subject area, understand young adults and maintain high standards of professional instruction.
- Be dedicated and committed to support team work, to ensure each student strives to maximise their ability and results.
- Provide substantial access to teacher assistance both in and outside normal class time.
- Expert advice and guidance in the selection of higher education and vocational options.
- Provide access to quality facilities and equipment that facilitate student success; including state-of-the-art learning technologies.
- Provide a supportive young adult environment where an ethos of cooperation, courtesy and care exists between staff and students.
- Provide additional curriculum activities that assist students to succeed in their Senior Schooling as well as developing pride and respect in themselves and their College.

Reviewed date:	03.02.2020	Review #	1	Page #	2
----------------	------------	----------	---	--------	---

- Model positive behaviour and treat all members of the school community with respect.
- 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.
- Proactively engage with parents about student outcomes.
- 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 or any person who is acting in an offensive, intimidating or otherwise inappropriate way to leave the school grounds.

As parents and carers, we will:

- Insist that students attend all classes every day unless illness or a family emergency occurs.
- Communicate with the College on the day of the student’s absence.
- Assist students to maintain a balance between work, leisure and rest.
- Contact the College if there is a concern regarding wellbeing, learning progress or work completion.
- Support the College and Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority rules.
- Assist the College to obtain data about its performance through sample surveys.
- Attend Parent/Student/Teacher (PST) conferences, information evenings, concerts and exhibitions.
- Not call students on their mobile phone during school time - in an emergency contact the office.
- Maintain regular contact if required with teachers via phone, interview or email.
- Model positive behaviour to our child.
- Communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community.
- 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:

- Attend class and activities punctually and be prepared for learning.
- Complete and hand in all work and Assessment Tasks on time.
- Work in a co-operative manner with teaching and support staff.
- Be prepared to do their best in their various studies.
- Follow the College Engagement and Wellbeing Policy.
- Seek the assistance of teachers, counsellors, and school personnel when needed.
- Adhere to the classroom expectations established by the teacher and the class, and make the most of our educational opportunities.
- Behave in a mature and responsible manner, and model positive behaviour to other students.
- Develop work habits in and out of class to ensure continuous improvement.
- Engage positively when using social media.
- Communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community, including staff and fellow students.

<i>Reviewed date:</i>	03.02.2020	<i>Review #</i>	1	<i>Page #</i>	3
-----------------------	------------	-----------------	---	---------------	---

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 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.

### Resources

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- 1.02 Bullying Prevention Policy
- 1.08 Complaints Policy
- 1.12 Duty of Care Policy
- 1.19 Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- 1.21 Visitors Policy

Reviewed date:	03.02.2020	Review #	1	Page #	4
----------------	------------	----------	---	--------	---

**Additional Resources:**

Safe School: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/safeschools.aspx>

Respectful Relationships: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/respectfulrelationships.aspx>

Professional Learning Communities:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/improvement/plc/Pages/default.aspx>

**Review and Evaluation**

<i>Ratified by:</i>	<i>School Council</i>	<i>Ratified date:</i>	<i>03.02.2020</i>
<i>Document Owner:</i>	<i>Principal</i>	<i>Reviewed date:</i>	<i>10.02.2024</i>
<i>S:\Admin\Policy Docs\Policy Register\1.18 Statement of Values &amp; School Philosophy Policy</i>		<i>Review Cycle:</i>	<i>3-4 years</i>
<i>Principal Approval:</i>			

**Date reviewed by College Council: 10.02.2020**

<i>Reviewed date:</i>	<i>03.02.2020</i>	<i>Review #</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Page #</i>	<i>5</i>
-----------------------	-------------------	-----------------	----------	---------------	----------