

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND COLLEGE PHILOSOPHY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our College community and explain the vision, mission and objectives of our school.

POLICY

Edenhope College is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. The College 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 Edenhope 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, in our staff induction materials, and enrolment/transition packs.

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

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

VISION

Edenhope College's vision is to value the environmental, social, cultural and economic attributes of the local and regional context and include these to provide the best possible educational facility for its young people.

MISSION & OBJECTIVE

Edenhope College's mission and objective is to 'respond to the needs of all learners'.

VALUES

At Edenhope College we are:

- Respectful by being kind, courteous and accepting.
- Safe by being thoughtful and compassionate.
- Willing to learn by being attentive, curious and creative.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Edenhope 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 College 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 College grounds.

As teachers and non-teaching Edenhope College staff, we will:

- model positive behaviour to students consistent with the standards of our profession
- explicitly teach behaviour and behavioural expectations through a documented and planned approach
- 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 College leaders in the event we anticipate or face any tension or challenging behaviours from parents
- treat all members of the College community with respect.

As parents and carers, we will:

- model positive behaviour to our child
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the Edenhope College community
- ensure our child attends school on time, every day the College is open for instruction
- take an interest in our child's College and learning
- work with the College to achieve the best outcomes for our child
- communicate constructively with the College and use expected processes and protocols when raising concerns
- support College staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students
- follow the school's processes for communication with staff and making complaints
- treat all College leaders, staff, students, and other members of the College community with respect.

As students, we will:

- model positive behaviour to other students
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the College community.
- comply with and model College values
- behave in a safe and responsible manner
- respect ourselves, other members of the College 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 College community
- treat other members of the College community with respect
- support College 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 College staff, parents, carers, students or members of our College community will not be tolerated at school, or during any Edenhope College 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 College Philosophy* may lead to further investigation and the implementation of appropriate consequences by the College 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 College grounds or College activities
- exclusion from College grounds or attendance at College activities
- reports to Victoria Police
- legal action

Inappropriate student behaviour will be managed in according with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*.

Our *Statement of Values and College Philosophy* ensures that everyone in our College community will be treated with fairness and respect. In turn, we will strive to create a College that is inclusive and safe, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- *Edenhope College Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was endorsed on 3 August 2020 and is scheduled for review in 2024.