



SWINBURN
SENIOR SECONDARY COLLEGE

Statement of Values and School Philosophy

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

Swinburne Senior 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 Swinburne Senior 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 www.sssc.vic.edu.au

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

Swinburne Senior Secondary College's vision is to enable independent, critical thinking that challenges and enriches learners' lives, creating citizens who contribute positively to the global community through intellectual endeavour, cultural acceptance, and action.

Students are encouraged to develop their individual identities through the pursuit of their learning goals and future career ambitions. The college fosters students' creative, analytical, and critical thinking through delivery of the VCE and VET programs, offering a broad range of subjects for senior students to make appropriate choices regarding their areas of interest and expertise.

MISSION

Swinburne Senior Secondary College's mission is to develop lifelong learners with enquiring minds and a keen sense of curiosity. We encourage young adults to take risks, be responsible for their actions, and value the importance of respect, responsibility, and commitment. As a senior-only college, the teachers at Swinburne Senior work to empower students to make their own decisions about their learning. Supporting students' individual needs is a key focus of the college, which is engendered through the teachers' respectful interactions with the students, embracing individual differences and encouraging them to adapt a growth-mindset approach to their studies.

OBJECTIVE

Swinburne Senior Secondary College's objective is to:

- provide relevant VCE, VET and VCAL senior secondary programs in response to the needs identified by the college and wider community
- consider the individual differences that exists among students and to help each student achieve growth academically and on a personal level
- ensure that all students, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, sexual preference, socio-economic background, and personal circumstances are provided with a curriculum that is challenging, comprehensive and purposeful
- provide post-secondary pathways advice and support.

VALUES

The following values are central to the life of the college. We strive to apply these values in our everyday dealings with each other and in the development of our programs and policies. At Swinburne Senior Secondary College, we value and enact:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Commitment

Respect means:

- Respecting ourselves, others, and our relationships
- Respecting ourselves and others in all we think, say and do
- Respecting our learning, community, and environment.

Responsibility means:

Personal accountability is promoted for learning and conduct, encouraging all to make a positive contribution to the local and global community and the environment.

Commitment means:

All members of the college community strive for growth in all aspects of their education that will foster a love of learning and lead them to become independent learners.

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.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Swinburne Senior Secondary College 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 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, and 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.

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 accordance with our school's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy.

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COMMUNICATION

This policy is available on our school website www.sssc.vic.edu.au

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2022
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	July 2025