

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

Timbarra P9 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 Timbarra P9 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, student diary 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 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

Timbarra P9 College creates a culture of lifelong learning through building a sense of belonging and achievement while actively promoting optimism, curiosity and responsibility in conjunction with our home/school partnerships. We develop the whole child. *We are the difference!*

MISSION

Timbarra P9 College's mission is to enable our students to have:

- Positive self-esteem and independence in learning
- Confidence to strive for personal best and excellence in learning
- A sense of individual and collective pride in striving for continued improvement
- Self-discipline, adaptability and flexibility to succeed in a changing society
- Appreciation of the physical, social and cultural diversities in society
- A sense of responsibility and ownership towards their own learning

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- An appreciation of the importance of regular school attendance and its relationship to academic and social success.

OBJECTIVE

Timbarra P9 College's objective is for our students to :

- Have developed understandings and skills that align with the Victorian Curriculum
- To be agile learners in the 21st Century
- Develop a sense of self-worth
- To accept responsibility for their behaviour and choices through positive reinforcement and the teaching and learning of social skills and strategies
- To have an awareness that there are logical consequences for behaviour choices
- To have the ability to live and work collaboratively.

VALUES

Timbarra P9 College's values are

Timbarra P9 College's values are learning, persistence, respect and getting along.

We model and demonstrate learning excellence whilst using creativity, reflection, feedback, effective organisation and higher order thinking to build confidence, expand and embed our learning.

We model and endorse collaboration, teamwork and getting along, recognising that we are stronger when we learn and work together as a learning community.

We respect ourselves, our school and one another, and understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people around us. We respect our diverse Australian community and seek to understand and show empathy to all.

We model and demonstrate persistence, which we recognise as a means to becoming resilient and positive individuals able to contribute to and thrive in our society.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Timbarra P9 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
- 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

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- do our best to ensure every child is supported to achieve 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
- communicate constructively with the school and use expected processes and protocols when raising concerns
- follow the school's processes for communication with staff and making complaints
- 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
- support school staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students
- 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
- comply with and model 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

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- 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 accordance 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Communication with School Staff, Respect for School Staff and Its Not Okay To Be Away

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on September 2017 and is scheduled for review in March 2019

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