
Statement of School Values and Philosophy Policy (2023 - 2026)



<i>Date implemented</i>	13 September 2023
<i>Author</i>	Justin Hird
<i>Date to be reviewed</i>	September 2026
<i>To be reviewed by</i>	Principal
<i>References</i>	Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide
<i>Approved by</i>	Principal
<i>Date</i>	13 September 2023
<i>Signature</i>	

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Justin Hird', located below the signature label in the table.

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

Castlemaine 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 Castlemaine 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, 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 school values
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the school values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, during meetings and at assemblies.

Vision

At Castlemaine Secondary College we have high learning expectations of staff and students. We promote and support emotional and physical well-being, developing resilient community members.

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 (AIP) to operationalise the goals and key improvement strategies contained in our SSP.

Values

Castlemaine Secondary College's values are **Aspiration, Respect and Empathy**.

Behavioural Expectations

Castlemaine 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, Inclusion and Diversity Policy, Bullying Prevention Policy. All policies can be found on the [College Website](#).

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 School Values and 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](#).

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

- [Department of Education and Training policies and resources:](#)
- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)

Castlemaine Secondary College [policies](#).

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Complaints Policy

Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	13 September 2023
Approved by	College Council
Next scheduled review date	September 2026