



STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Irymple Secondary College Ph 5024 5407 or email irymplesc@education.vic.gov.au

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

Irymple 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 Irymple 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 and our local shared folder.

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

- 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

Irymple Secondary College's vision is for all of us to work effectively and respectfully in our open flexible learning community.

MISSION

Irymple Secondary College's mission is to provide students with the best possible educational opportunities whilst encouraging student voice.

OBJECTIVE

Irymple Secondary College's objective is to provide a safe, calm, and happy environment in which our students can dream, achieve, and succeed.

VALUES

Irymple Secondary College's values are:

- **HIGH EXPECTATIONS:** Stay positive and confident. Be persistent.
- **RESPECT:** Respect yourself and others. Be courteous, tolerant, and cooperative.
- **HONESTY:** Students and staff can be trusted. Be truthful and take responsibility for your own actions.
- **CARING:** Be sensitive and considerate towards others. Show compassion and help those in need.
- **JUSTICE:** We operate on democratic principles using restorative practices.
- **FAIRNESS:** Be fair in your dealings with others and safeguard their rights.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Irymple Secondary 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.
- identify and support students who are or may be at risk.
- have high expectations around learning and behaviour.

- encourage student voice.
- 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
- follow Child Safe Standards and Policies
- expect that all students have a right to learn, and all teachers have a right to teach
- 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
- 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
- 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:

- 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
- 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:

- 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
- 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 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.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways.

- Included in staff induction processes.
- Available publicly on our school's website <http://www.irysec.vic.edu.au/>
- Referred to our website in transition and enrolment packs.
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required.
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

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](#)

Irymple Secondary College polices:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	April 2023
Approved by	School Council and Principal

Next scheduled review date | April 2027
