ROWVILLE SECONDARY COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Summary

Table 1 - Document details

Publication date	March 2022
Review date	March 2025
Related legislation/applicable section of legislation	
Related policies, procedures, guidelines, standards, frameworks	Department of Education and Training policies and resources: • Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy • Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy • RSC Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy • RSC Inclusion and Diversity Policy • RSC Bullying Prevention Policy • RSC Parent Complaints Policy
Approved by	School Council
Approval date	March 2022
Version	1.0

Interpreter

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school on 9755 4555.

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1. 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.

2. Policy

Rowville 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 Rowville 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 mission statement, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website and Compass.

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
- use our values as part of our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support approach.

We will measure our success through the School Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan targets.

MISSION & VISION

Rowville Secondary College's mission statement is *Nurturing Strengths to Grow Curious and Powerful Learners.*

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

VALUES

Rowville Secondary College's values are:

Respect – Act as you would like to be treated

Responsibility – Brave enough to play your part

Excellence– Nothing but your best

Community – We're all in this together

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Rowville 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. We are undertaking the Positive Behaviour Support Program in our school which focuses on teaching students what is the expected behaviour and acknowledging students when they demonstrate that behaviour through Merits on Compass.

Students are guided about the expected behaviour through our Positive Behaviours Matrix (Appendix 1).

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 and our Respect for School Staff Policy.

Rowville 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
- ensure all parents/carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the Department's Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy
- 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 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 or students
- 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, in line with the Department's Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy.
- ensure our child attends school on time, every day the school is open for instruction or notify the school office of any valid absence
- 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
- 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 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

- Available publicly on our school's website and on Compass
- Made available in hard copy form the school administration upon request

ROWVILLE SECONDARY COLLEGE

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POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS MATRIX

	CLASSROOM	LOCKERBAYS	YARD	ALL AREAS
RESPECT Act as you would like to be treated	We use equipment appropriately We leave the classroom with staff permission We actively listen	We move within the space calmly We are patient We wait our turn	We are polite We treat everyone fairly	We use polite language We treat everyone equally We put rubbish in the bin We follow instructions the first time
RESPONSIBILITY Brave enough to play your part	We are ready to learn We do our best We complete all set tasks We arrive at class on time	We leave our bags and phones in lockers We use our assigned lockers We are considerate of other's property	We move calmly through the College	We act safely and calmly We follow school rules We look after our environment
EXCELLENCE Nothing but your best	We give our best effort We actively participate in all of our classes We practice a growth mindset	We organise our lockers to support our learning	We are an upstander, not a bystander	We arrive to school every day ready to learn We check Compass and our emails daily
COMMUNITY We're all in this together	We consider everyone's efforts We contribute positively We keep our learning space tidy	We keep the space clean	We are open minded	We keep ourselves and others safe We are kind We show gratitude