



WHEELERS HILL SECONDARY COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY 2023



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the College Office on 9561 5811

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

Wheelers Hill 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 Wheelers Hill 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, 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 : CREATING FUTURES TOGETHER

Wheeler's Hill Secondary College's vision is to ensure that our students can embrace the future with the skills, knowledge and attributes that will equip them for a safe and successful life. We believe our core responsibility, as an educational learning community, is to give students the opportunity to achieve self-actualisation, which is the fulfilment of their unique talents and potentialities. This also means that as individuals and global citizens, each and every young person who enrolls at our school has the right to achieve excellence in their learning; that they respect the rights of others to learn in a safe and inclusive environment and where respect is the cornerstone of all our actions. We believe that by nurturing personal wellbeing students have the resilience and perseverance to harness creativity in a proactive and collaborative way for the betterment of themselves and the world around them.

MISSION

Wheeler's Hill Secondary College's mission is to prepare students to be productive citizens in the 21st Century where they have the capacity to be positive decision makers who consider others and themselves as they develop the key knowledge and skills that will guide their futures.

OBJECTIVE

Our school's objectives are considered as part of the four 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

Wheeler's Hill Secondary College values are:

Respect: WHSC promotes respectful, inclusive and positive relationships. Our students and staff act with integrity and value diversity in their interactions with others. We understand that inclusive language and behaviours define us as individuals and members of the Wheeler's Hill community. We respect our own traditions as a College, and we respect our First Nations people and the land on which we learn.

Excellence: WHSC provides opportunities to demonstrate excellence in all areas of learning and teaching by adopting a focused and committed approach to building key knowledge and skills. We believe that excellence is about achieving personal best but more importantly it is about the journey. It is only through perseverance, resilience and the capacity to learn from failure that true excellence can be achieved. Excellence is not simply a measure or a number but a recognition of all the parts that define us as authentic learners and teachers who have achieved mastery and autonomy in the key knowledge and skills that we aspire to.

Creativity: WHSC believes that creativity is the key to unlocking the potential in every student. Our students and staff are encouraged to seek innovative solutions and use higher order thinking skills as independent and collaborative learners. We believe that the Design Thinking Process is a significant tool in supporting young people to use creative critical thinking skills that are based on empathy and self-reflection.



BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Wheeler's Hill 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 all stakeholders
- 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, carers or any other stakeholder
- treat all members of the school community with respect.

As parents and carers, we will:

- model positive behaviour to our child/children
- 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:

- 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.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- 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](#)

Wheeler's Hill Secondary School policies:

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Policy last reviewed | 2022 |
| Consultation | School Council |
| Approved by | School Council, Principal |
| Next scheduled review date | 2024 |