



Vermont Secondary College

'Lift up thine eyes'

VSC Statement of Values & Philosophy

@ 28 October 2020

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our school community and explain the vision, mission and values of our school.

Our *VSC Statement of Values & 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.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land we live, work and travel upon and we pay our respects to the Elders, both past and present, and we recognise, acknowledge and respect the history, culture, diversity and value of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands people.

POLICY

Vermont Secondary College (VSC) is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our diverse community. Our school recognises the importance of our partnership with parents and carers to support our students in their wellbeing, engagement and achievement in learning. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe school environment for our students.

The VSC Democratic Principles college statement includes the democratic principles listed in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 and repeated below. The programs and teaching at VSC 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, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website, our learning management system (Compass), our staff induction handbook, the student diary and in enrolment/transition packs.

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

- display posters and banners that promote our values in our school;
- promote our values at community information evenings;
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter and other publications;
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values;
- embed our values in student programs like Building Capacity;
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

VISION:

The VSC Motto - Lift up thine eyes

Our college motto *Lift up thine eyes* provides the vision of our college community. We aspire to be progressive and optimistic in our endeavours and interactions, constantly open to the improvement

of wellbeing, engagement and achievement. Together, we are building the capacity of our community to engage meaningfully and contribute positively in an increasingly complex world.

VSC Vision for Learning & Teaching:

Our community creates rich and rigorous learning experiences that empower us all to participate with curiosity, purpose and insight.

This will be achieved through the implementation of the VSC Instructional Model, which underpins our pedagogical practice to guide us in implementing more consistent, high quality, innovative curriculum, assessment, teaching and learning practices with clear expectations for staff, students and parents.

MISSION

VSC is proud of its status as a high-performing neighbourhood state school. The goal of VSC is to draw on the qualities of the young people at the college, providing a curricular and co-curricular program that allows them to flourish in areas of strength and to develop in areas of weakness. We strive to support all students to develop the ability to recognise and manage emotions, develop caring and concern for others, make responsible decisions, establish positive relationships, act creatively, engage fully with learning, contribute to community, develop high expectations for self, and handle challenging situations with resilience and respond effectively.

VSC VALUES

Our endeavours and interactions are guided by our College Values of:

- Integrity – (self)
- Respect - (others / community)
- Excellence – (achievement / learning / endeavours)

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

VSC 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.

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 VSC 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 & 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 according with our school's VSC Student Wellbeing & Engagement Policy and the VSC Bullying Prevention Policy.

Date Implemented	November 2019
Author	Harry Ruff (Assistant Principal) & the VSC VVC working party
Approved By	School Council
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	School Council President Dr Steve Siems 
Date Reviewed	October 2019
Responsible for Review	Principal & SIT
Review Date	Every three years, or as required.
References / Links	Victorian Government Schools Policy Templates Portal: https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edrms/keyprocess/cp/SitePages/SchoolPoliciesDetail.aspx?CId=61 VSC Child Safe Standards Policy and Code of Conduct VSC Student Wellbeing & Engagement policy VSC Student Code of Conduct VSC Classroom Relationships framework VSC Communication with School Staff policy VIT Code of Conduct DET Values