



STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Elevation Secondary College on 8339 8000.

For translation call number below; Aşağıdaki çeviri telefon numarası için; ĐỂ DỊCH SỐ ĐIỆN THOẠI BÊN DƯỚI; Wixii tarjubaan ah wac lambarka hoose; Mo fa'aliliuga telefoni numera o lo'o i lalo; अनुवादको लागि तलको नम्बरमा कल गर्नुहोस्; अठुवाए लयी ठेठां दिँते नँघर 'उे काल वरे; ترجمہ کے لیے نیچے دیے گئے نمبر پر کال کریں; 对于下面的翻译电话号码; अनुवाद के लिए नीचे दिए गए कॉल नंबर; மொழிபெயர்ப்புக்கு கீழே உள்ள எண்ணை அழைக்கவும்;

للتترجمة رقم الاتصال أدناه

8339 8000

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

Elevation 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 Elevation 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

- share with and teach the school values and expected behaviours with members of the community regularly and through a variety of forums including assemblies, newsletters and school council
- explicitly teach positive education and trauma informed strategies in the curriculum via Mentor Group and Personal Development classes
- engage all teaching staff in professional learning around positive education and trauma informed practice
- promote positive psychology and positive education principles with the entire school community
- implement a School Wide Positive Behaviour model
- Hold annual awards celebration events, where members of the community celebrate academic, sporting, extra-curricular and other achievements.
- Regularly celebrate students with values and behavioural awards at assemblies and through Compass

Elevation Secondary College is a mainstream secondary school with a physical design and enrolment provision that provides additional support to a higher proportion of students with additional needs. Students with additional needs are provided with support to receive differentiated instruction including high quality, evidence-based educational provision within mainstream classrooms.

VISION

Elevation Secondary College's vision is to be an inclusive and outward facing community that values improving student learning, social emotional outcomes and educational attainment for all students. The school aspires to be known for its academic excellence, orderly learning environments, inclusiveness and the outstanding opportunities it provides its students.

Elevation Secondary College will teach a broad and rigorous academic program that allows students to build skills and knowledge in all areas of the curriculum. Teachers will engage students in a curriculum that challenges their thinking and promotes high expectations for all learners. The school will also adopt proactive programs in the areas of positive psychology, character strengths, building a growth mindset and trauma informed practice. It will also provide students opportunities to engage in a range of extra-curricular programs that enhance learning in the classroom and the ability to engage in the wider community, academic and corporate world.

Victorian Government Supported Inclusion Schools support a higher number of students with additional needs within mainstream classrooms. Supported Inclusion Schools offer high-quality learning for all students, extra support for students with disabilities, and focus on inclusive education that welcomes all students. Supported Inclusion Schools provide students with the same access to opportunities as at any other neighbourhood government school in Victoria: the only difference is the greater capacity these schools have to support students with disability.

MISSION

Elevation Secondary College's mission is to provide students with a rigorous education, with high levels of literacy, numeracy, creative and critical thinking that prepares them for better life outcomes.

OBJECTIVE

Elevation Secondary College's objective is to ensure that all students leave the school with a broad and functional understanding of the curriculum, which allows them to move into positive post school destinations. The school's objective is that all students have viable pathways and move onto further education and training.

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

Elevation Secondary College's values are Achievement, Acceptance, Responsibility and Community

Achievement reflects the purpose of education in that, all students should be aiming to achieve their best at all times. Achievement means that students maintain a focus on their learning, improving their skills and knowledge and achieving their personal best.

Acceptance shows that the school values each member of its community as they present themselves and wish to be seen. Acceptance promotes Respect, positive relationships and inclusion.

Responsibility is a key value of the school as genuine learning, academic, social and emotional growth can only happen when students take Responsibility and ownership for their learning, actions and behaviours.

Community is an important value to the school as the school is both a reflection of and contributor to its community. The school values input from the local community and looks to engage outwardly with various community, academic and corporate institutions.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Elevation 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.

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.

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](#).

Elevation Secondary College's school values are underpinned by our key behavioural expectations which are: *Aim High, Work Hard, Be Good*.

Aim High reflects the need that all students should have aspirations in life, including the aspiration to continuously improve their learning and behaviours. Students that aim high are improvement focused and support other students to improve.

Work Hard reflects the idea that all students achieve improvement and eventual success through working hard and stretching their existing abilities. Students that work hard demonstrate a growth mindset and understand that improvement and achievement come through effort, feedback and practise.

Be Good is a reflection that students who approach relationships and interactions with others with kindness, empathy and gratitude contribute to an overall positive school culture and positive relationships. Kind, empathetic and gracious behaviours are encouraged in all circumstances.

Elevation Secondary College recognizes that students that commit to demonstrating these behaviours regularly contribute to a positive whole school culture and also their own personal growth and learning.

At all levels of the school community, Elevation Secondary College will endeavour to embody these values and behavioural expectations.

As principals and school leaders, we will:

- model positive behaviour and effective leadership
- share with and teach the school values and behavioural expectations with members of the community regularly and through a variety of forums
- share with and teach the school values and behavioural expectations with members of the community regularly and through a variety of forums
- promote positive psychology and positive education principles with the entire school community
- develop and implement a School Wide Positive Behaviour model
- embody the DET values of Responsiveness, Integrity, Impartiality, Accountability, Respect, Leadership, Human Rights
- 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
- embody the DET values of Responsiveness, Integrity, Impartiality, Accountability, Respect, Leadership, Human Rights
- 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, 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
- 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
- display the key behavioural expectations at all times
- 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 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
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- 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](#)

Elevation Secondary College policies:

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	May 2024
Endorsed by	School Council – May 2024
Endorsed on	May 2024
Next scheduled review date	May 2028