

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

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

Altona 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 Altona 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, in 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 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

At Altona College we are committed to a culture of success where all learners experience growth. We have high expectations of ourselves and know that the challenges associated with learning provide opportunities for personal and academic development.

We strive for excellence in education and ensure that students are the agents of their own learning.

In valuing innovation, respect and integrity, we seek to provide opportunities for our students to be resilient and future-focused learners.

As educators, we are curious as to our effect on student learning and engage in continuous and collective evaluation of this.

MISSION

Altona College's mission is to ensure that every child is known, valued and connected to their learning pathway.

OBJECTIVE

Altona College's objective is to create a challenging, inclusive, safe and supportive learning environment where the voice of all students is heard and valued, and in which all students are supported to achieve high learning growth and that every child achieves a full year of learning growth across all aspects of their curriculum.

VALUES

Altona College's values are Innovation, Integrity and Respect. As a community, we take care to teach, learn and adopt the following traits:

Innovation: We are curious, creative and collaborative. We take calculated risks and invest time in learning from our mistakes. We seek to improve with every opportunity we encounter, and we are passionate about creating positive change in our world.

Integrity: We take pride in ourselves and our community. We are accountable and trustworthy. Big or small, we take care to do the right thing, even when nobody is looking.

Respect: We are compassionate, caring and considerate in our dealings with others. We are sensitive to the needs, cultures, opinions and understandings of others. We are aware of our surroundings and act accordingly.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Altona 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
- 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
- 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:

- *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.

RELATED POLICIES

- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement*
- *Communication with School Staff*
- *Respect for School Staff*

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in October 2020 and is scheduled for review in October 2022