STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school at the General Office.

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.

CONTEXT STATEMENT

Yarrabing Secondary College was established in 2024 and is located approximately 35 kilometres west of Melbourne. When fully established, the school will have 1200 students enrolled from Grade 7 to 12 and 130 school staff members including Wellbeing staff.

Our school grounds are very close to native bushland, and we are surrounded by a supportive community. Nearly all students that attend our school live locally and tend to walk or ride their bike to school. Yarrabing Secondary College has developed close ties to the local community and enjoys support from our local shops and community services.

Our school is culturally diverse with 60% of students having a language background other than English (LOTE) spoken in the family home, with the largest LOTE languages being Hindi and Punjabi. The school also has very small representation from the Koorie community. We are proud of our diversity and inclusive school community.

We strive to provide a nurturing and challenging environment that empowers students to reach their personal best, both academically and socially.

POLICY

Yarrabing 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 Yarrabing 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 your 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

Yarrabing Secondary College's vision is to empower our students by developing well rounded, confident and responsible individuals who have high expectations of themselves, and who aspire to achieve success through respect, responsibility and collaboration.

MISSION

Yarrabing Secondary College's mission is to be a safe, supportive environment that emphasizes motivation and self-discipline. Using 21st century approaches, we provide students with the means to achieve their potential and we challenge our students to grow academically, socially, culturally and emotionally. Collaboration and positive relationships will underpin all our work.

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

Yarrabing Secondary College's values are **respect, responsibility, high expectations** and **collaboration**.

- *We* ***respect*** *ourselves, our school and each another, and understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people around us.*
- *We take on* ***responsibility*** *by being personally accountable for, and in control of our actions.*
- *We set ourselves* ***high expectations*** *and strive to achieve success in everything we do, to the best of our ability, and embrace every opportunity that is offered.*
- *We come together to collaborate and contribute our expertise and thoughts for the benefit of a shared objective or project.* ***Collaboration*** *brings people together and enables positive relationships to flourish.*

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Yarrabing 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
- commit to creating and maintaining a child safe and child-friendly organisation, where children and young people are safe and feel safe?
- 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
- adhere to school policies and procedures.

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
- adhere to school policies and procedures.

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.
- adhere to school policies and procedures.

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
- adhere to school policies and procedures.

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
- adhere to school policies and procedures.

UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOURS

Schools are not public places, and the Principal has the right to permit or deny entry to school grounds.

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 in staff induction processes
- included in staff handbook/manual
- included in transition and enrolment packs
- included in student diaries so that it is easily accessible to parents, carers and students
- included as annual reference in school newsletter
- made available In hard copy from school administration upon request.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL) and resources:
  - Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy
  - Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy
  - Parent Complaints Policy

- Related Policies:
  - Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
  - Inclusion and Diversity Policy
  - Bullying Prevention Policy
  - Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
  - Complaints Policy
  - Duty of Care Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	November 2025
Approved by	School Council – December 2025
Next scheduled review date	Before November 2028