

Statement of Values and 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

Footscray High School 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 responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe school environment for our students.

The programs and teaching at Footscray High School 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 and staff who actively demonstrate the values
- Discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies
- Include values statements with all international student induction and orientation materials
- Include statement of philosophy and values advice in all contracts with external providers
- Display values on school policies and procedures.

VISION

Footscray High School is a new and contemporary multi-campus secondary school in Melbourne's vibrant, geographically rich and culturally diverse inner west.

At Footscray High School we are committed to every student having access to a world class education. Inspiring young people to develop the 'essential skills' required for their future pathways in an inclusive and positive learning environment is our priority.

We will provide all students with a comprehensive and innovative curriculum that focuses on individual growth and addresses the skills and dispositions required for citizens of the 3rd millennium. Our vision is to draw on international research and best practice to ensure that our curriculum and programs promote choice and agility to deal with complex, unknown and rapidly changing futures.

The high-tech environment will ensure new technologies are ubiquitous in everyday teaching and learning programs. The use of technologies and media will ensure students are provided with a continuous 'blended learning' environment, where direct person-person relationships are supplemented by contact with other individuals, communities, materials and learning activities remote from the school in time and space but accessed online.

Footscray High School's vision is to provide excellence in learning and teaching, achievement, innovation and self-improvement within a supportive, healthy, safe and secure environment that is inclusive of all.

MISSION

Footscray High School's mission is to provide excellence in education through a caring and diverse environment that encourages the holistic development of each student. We aim to provide students with rich academic, social, physical and creative experiences that develop their full talents and uniqueness.

We aspire to be an educational establishment renowned for its vibrant community, which develops creative thinking and learning dispositions in order for our students to engage with the complex challenges of an ever-changing world. The community have a collective responsibility to engage in the total life of the school and to actively pursue a range of learning experiences. Our ultimate aim is to develop compassionate students with the personal qualities and attributes that will enable them to face their future with confidence.

OBJECTIVE

Footscray High School's objective is to:

- Offer high quality education within a supportive and understanding environment
- Develop critical and creative learners who actively engage in the learning process to acquire knowledge, skills, concepts and attitudes.
- Encourage cultural understanding and acceptance of diversity.
- Encourage communication in both social and academic environments between all members of the community.

VALUES

Footscray High School's values are:

UNITY

Our school is built on collaboration. This is where three campuses, many cultures and infinite personal journeys unite with pride and with purpose.

We lift each other up, building on the strength and support of our whole community to achieve greatness.

RESPECT

Respect – for ourselves, our colleagues, our individual traditions and our shared future inspires us in every way.

We treat each other with care, compassion and kindness; we act with integrity; and we are engaged in making a positive impact on our world.

CREATIVITY

We embrace doing things differently because we want to make a difference.

We draw on wisdom, experience and our own original thinking to create new possibilities.

Future focused, open minded and proudly progressive, we constantly seek a better way.

ENDEAVOUR

The boldness of our vision is matched by our relentless spirit, our self-belief and the pride that comes from hard work. The enthusiasm which drives our endeavour also demonstrates our character: In the classroom and beyond, we strive to be our very best.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Footscray High School 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Child Safe Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in August 2019 and is scheduled for evaluation and review in **August 2022**.

School Council President Signature: _____ Date _____

Executive Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____