

## STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY POLICY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school Policy Leader on 9112 9500 or via email [info@footscray.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@footscray.vic.edu.au)

## 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, 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



## VISION

Footscray High School is a 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. Our students develop the essential skills, knowledge and capabilities required for their future pathways in an inclusive and positive learning environment.

We will provide all students with a comprehensive and innovative curriculum that focuses on individual growth and addresses the skills and dispositions required for the broader world. We draw on international research and best practice to ensure that our curriculum and programs promote choice and agility to deal with the rapidly changing future.

Footscray High School's vision is to provide excellence in learning and teaching, foster student achievement, and provide skills for innovation within a healthy, supportive and inclusive environment.

## MISSION

Footscray High School is dedicated to fostering a dynamic and inclusive learning environment where students are empowered to achieve their best. Guided by the values of unity, respect, creativity, and endeavour, we celebrate diversity and nurture each student's unique strengths.

We provide a high-quality education that encourages critical thinking, resilience, and innovation. Our rich curriculum inspires a love for learning and prepares students to be active, informed global citizens. Through collaboration with families and the wider community, we promote respect, responsibility, and lifelong learning.

At Footscray High School, we believe in the power of unity to create a strong, connected school culture. We respect all voices, embrace creativity as a driver of progress, and value endeavour in the pursuit of excellence. With a focus on wellbeing and leadership, we equip students with the confidence and skills to shape the future with integrity and purpose.

## 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 and encourage creativity in everything we do 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. Reflected in our **School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Matrix**, 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.

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included on our Staff Information Site on Compass
- Included in staff induction and child safety training processes
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)

School policies:

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



## REVIEW AND APPROVAL

|                                       |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Endorsed by</b>                    | School Council |
| <b>Endorsed on</b>                    | March 2025     |
| <b>Mandatory minimum review cycle</b> | 3-4 Years      |
| <b>Next review date</b>               | March 2029     |