



PRAHRAN
HIGH
SCHOOL

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 AND SCOPE

Prahran 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 a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe school environment for our students.

The programs and teaching at Prahran 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, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website, our staff induction handbook, Compass School Documentation and enrolment/transition packs.

To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our school community, we

- embed our school values into our curriculum design model
- commit to inclusion at all levels to ensure every student is included in the learning program
- 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

The vision of Prahran High School is for *all* students to learn and to develop the intellectual rigour and character required to make a positive impact in their world.

Mission

Our mission is to foster curiosity, creativity and empathy in the students in our care in order to develop young leaders of character and purpose who can confidently embrace life's challenges and make a positive impact in their world.

Objectives

Prahran High School identifies the potential of young people and aims to create a learning community where children grow and prosper through:

- The provision of a high-quality comprehensive education environment with all learners and learning at the centre

- A well-planned program focusing on each individual student's needs and growth, delivered using diverse teaching strategies and comprising a guaranteed and viable curriculum
- A safe, inclusive and purposeful school environment
- The active promotion of cooperative and supportive relationships between all members of the school community.

Our school's vision and mission is 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

Prahran High School's values are as follows:

Creativity, Curiosity, Challenge, Character. Making an impact!

Creativity

The ability to think creatively and critically will be a defining trait of tomorrow's successful young adults. We encourage creative, independent and original thinking in all aspects of our school curriculum, fostering an environment of active collaboration and exploration.

Curiosity

Curiosity is the doorway to exploration, understanding and the acquisition of knowledge and wisdom. We encourage our students to be lifetime learners and are inspired by what Albert Einstein once said: *"I have no special talent, I am only passionately curious."*

Challenge

Today's students will learn to live, grow and work in the most challenging of times characterized by complexity, uncertainty and constant change. We will strive to strengthen resilience, resolve and intellectual rigour in our students so they will be up for the challenge.

Character

Character traits including empathy, compassion and self-awareness are essential to living a meaningful and purposeful life. At PHS we emphasize the development of sound and strong character alongside the achievement of academic excellence.

Making an Impact

By challenging our students to be curious, creative, collaborative and courageous, we aim to develop the intellectual capacity, sense of purpose and strength of character required for them to make a positive impact in the world around them.

Student Values and a Pledge

Be Curious.
Think Creatively.
Develop Character.
Embrace Challenge.
Make an Impact!

Our school values and motto serve as guiding principles and calls to action for our students and staff. We aim to have a positive impact on every student in our care so they can make a positive impact in their world.

Prahran High School acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture.

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, Child Safe Code of Conduct and 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](#) and our Respect for School Staff Policy.

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
- 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, inclusion and general wellbeing of all students at school
- identify and support students who are or may be at risk and intervene appropriately and supportively
- do our best to ensure each 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 ensure full inclusion in the learning program, striving to improve learning and wellbeing outcomes for all 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, 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
- 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 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 is treated with fairness and respect. In turn, we strive to create a school that is inclusive and safe, where everyone is included and empowered to participate, learn and thrive.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Available in Compass School Documentation
- Included in staff induction processes
- Made available in hard copy by request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2024
Approved by	School Council – May 2024
Next scheduled review date	Before April 2027



HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Prahran High School on 03 9113 1000 or prahran.hs@education.vic.gov.au.