

STATEMENT OF VALUES & SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Approved by School Council in November 2021

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the vision, values and expectations of our school community.

POLICY

Thornbury 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 Thornbury 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, values and the expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website.

Vision

Thornbury High School champions innovation and academic excellence in a supportive, inclusive environment. An extensive academic and co-curricular program aims to foster and inspire respectful, resilient young people ready to face a rapidly-changing world.

Our vision centres around fundamental knowledge, skills and experiences:

- Literacy and numeracy capabilities for lifelong learning
- Rich science, technology and arts experiences
- Leadership through humanities, languages and physical education
- Success in a digital world
- Enterprise skills to problem solve, think critically and creatively, communicate and collaborate
- Our place in a global community

Values

'Achievement and Excellence'. Our motto, visible in all our actions, represents what is critical to the education of the whole person. We value the fundamental attributes of a vibrant, quality education:

- Effort and **achievement** in all aspects of school life
- Active **engagement** in learning
- **Connectedness**, resilience and wellbeing
- Celebration of **diversity**

Behavioural expectations

Thornbury 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.

Rights and responsibilities for all members of staff, students and parents/carers are outlined in the Student Engagement and Wellbeing policy.

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:

- Provided to staff at induction and included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff meetings/briefings as required
- Made available publicly on our school website
- Made available in hard copy from Reception upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

See other school policies on the [Thornbury High School website](#).

REVIEW CYCLE

Policy last reviewed	November 2021
Approved by	School Council November 2021
Next scheduled review date	2024/25