

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Help for non-English speakers - If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact: Dandenong High School/ (+61) 3 9792 0561
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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

Dandenong 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 Dandenong 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.

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

The vision for Dandenong High School is one in which all students are empowered and achieve success. As an outstanding educational setting, we will exemplify excellence and high expectations in all aspects of our learning community. We will ensure that the diverse needs, achievements and strengths of every individual are recognised, nurtured and celebrated. We foster a supportive environment, building on the strengths within our unique community. Our key focus will be the development of independent, reflective, responsible and inquiring young people. Our students will be multi-skilled; ICT enabled and will embody a genuine passion for lifelong learning.

MISSION

In a technologically advanced and increasingly complex global community, Dandenong High School's mission is to provide all students with the skills, knowledge and wisdom to be successful learners, confident individuals and informed citizens. The provision of an innovative, inclusive and inspiring curriculum will enable Dandenong High School to inclusively support the great diversity of individual needs. Learning will be meaningful, ICT rich and integrated across all aspects of our students' lives.

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

Dandenong High School's values are:

- Curiosity – instilling a love of learning and a sense of wonder within all members of the learning community
- Respect – developing an understanding that all individuals are unique and can make valuable contributions to the community
- Compassion and Empathy – fostering respectful and supportive partnerships between students, parents, teachers and the wider community on their learning journey
- Excellence – empowering all students to achieve and celebrate their personal best within a culture of high expectations
- Perseverance – building a sense of determination and optimism when faced with challenges in learning and life
- Inclusiveness – promoting a sense of belonging through collaboration and mutual respect based on the principles of integrity, honesty and trust

SHARED EXPECTATIONS

Dandenong 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.

All members of Dandenong High School live out our values through our Community Commitment.

- Safe and Inclusive
 - Enact positive and safe behaviours
 - Accept individuals for who they are and the strengths they bring
 - Follow the school expectations and enact our values
- Focussed on Learning
 - Be Prepared for learning
 - Participate in learning
 - Receive and give feedback
- Connected
 - Demonstrate Pride in Self, House and School
 - Embrace all the opportunities the school offers
 - Treat all members of the community with respect

- **Community:** We are a learning community that embodies a genuine sense of tolerance and the celebration of diversity. Dandenong High School is a richly multicultural educational setting which promotes collaboration, acceptance, respect and individuality. We are fundamentally linked to the local, wider and global community and actively prepare our students to contribute to each as informed, empowered and empathetic citizens.
- **Students:** Our students are recognised for their individual, active and authentic student voice and are encouraged to become involved in all aspects of the school community. Our students value and demonstrate respect for one another and the learning environment; acceptance and tolerance of diversity; the safety and wellbeing of all school members; and the opportunity for all to learn.
- **Staff:** Our staff is committed to the provision and continual development of an outstanding teaching and learning culture at Dandenong High School. Our staff values the importance of nurturing and respectful relationships with students, within teaching teams and throughout the learning community. They are highly professional in all aspects of their role; are passionate about providing students with a meaningful and inspiring education; and willingly embrace a culture of high expectations, achievement and lifelong learning.
- **Environment:** Students feel encouraged to take risks with their learning and to inquire deeply through an environment which is supportive, nurturing and safe. The state-of-the-art, beautiful and sustainable design of the Houses at Dandenong High School enables rich and meaningful learning experiences. We support our students to effectively and safely navigate online environments and engage with emerging technologies.
- **Organisation:** We organise our school based on the knowledge of how students learn, through the development of a collaborative learning community incorporating the use of ICT to engage and empower students. Students are supported in their individualised learning pathway through the nurturing and inclusive House system and through a curriculum which allows for an integrated learning approach.

SAFE AND INCLUSIVE 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 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 *Vision and Values Statement* 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 the 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

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

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

Dandenong High School policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	18 th July 2023
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	July 2027