



Statement of Values and School Philosophy



HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Grovedale College on 03 5245 4545 or grovedale.co@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our school community and explain the philosophy and objectives of our school.

POLICY

Grovedale College 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 Grovedale College 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 philosophy, 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

- celebrate our achievements in our school newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

Values

Grovedale College is a school that values:

- Responsibility and Leadership
- Achievement and Excellence
- Citizenship and Community
- Initiative Commitment Respect

College Philosophy

Grovedale College will provide an Outstanding Education for all students; students will strive for their personal

best, graduating as responsible, resilient and resourceful young adults, well prepared to take charge of their future as involved and productive members of a rapidly changing community. Grovedale College students will be optimistic, autonomous, adaptive people, able to be resourceful, lateral and decisive in problem solving and who aim to excel in all endeavours.

Grovedale College will establish a sound foundation for a life of learning, independence and responsibility, nurturing essential thinking and leadership skills needed for students to successfully take charge of their future.

The education and maturation of this responsible, active citizen will be cultivated in a school with a strong emphasis on the total learning experience. Discovery with mastery in a range of curriculum and extra curricula activities will be fostered. Programs will be stimulating, rewarding and forward looking. Grovedale College will focus on whole student development by embracing academic progress, the building of character, self determination and a sense of self worth.

Grovedale College's high academic expectations will provide students with the confidence and skills to establish goals and priorities and achieve these. The discovery, pursuit and fulfillment of individual interests and personal achievement will be promoted.

Grovedale College's high performing staff will operate as teams to be at the forefront in developing education programs which create an academically challenging, enjoyable education environment with an emphasis on learning. These will support student ownership of all components of their College, their community, their learning, and their future.

The Grovedale College community will model positive behaviour and qualities, forging caring, cooperative relationships between and amongst peers and adults, where all encourage the best and applaud success. Grovedale College will be the centre of learning in the Grovedale Community, with its members providing vision, direction and initiative.

Grovedale College commits to providing eLearning opportunities for students allowing them to be creative and competent users of technology for the 21st century. We will provide relevant, stimulating and visionary opportunities for student to engage in ICT safely. Grovedale College is committed to the eSmart standards for ICT use.

Grovedale College will provide a learning environment that has academic success at the front of our education programs supporting every child to achieve their best incorporate a strong connection to school community, high quality welfare and support service and a safe and secure working environment that supports and celebrates all. The College is committed to the Child Safe Standards set by the Department of Human Services.

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.

Behavioural expectations

Grovedale College 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 Diaries, Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Inclusion and Diversity Policy, 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.

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 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 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

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	December 2023
Approved by	School Council – December 6, 2023
Next scheduled review date	Before June 2027

