



## St. Arnaud Secondary College

### 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

St. Arnaud Secondary 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, 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 St. Arnaud Secondary 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 the school's vision, mission, objective, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website, in our staff induction handbook 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 who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

#### VISION

The College, in line with the Department of Education and Training will provide students with a high-quality education within a safe and supportive environment in which all students consider themselves to be worthwhile members of the community. Students will be encouraged to strive for excellence and develop a positive set of values. The College will provide students with opportunities and encouragement to realise their potential in academic studies, physical, cultural and social development.



## **MISSION**

St. Arnaud Secondary College strives to develop motivated, resilient, lifelong learners who are responsible and respectful citizens in a changing society. Learning will be enhanced through strong partnerships between students, teachers, parents and community.

## **OBJECTIVE**

St. Arnaud Secondary College objectives are

- the safety of every student is important and that every child is entitled to be safe, regardless of ability, disability, race, religion, cultural or linguistic background, gender identity and sexuality.
- Every child has the right to be safe when at school and engaging in school related activities.
- Students will be engaged in activities that allow them to realise their potential in academic pursuits and their personal development.
- Students will be encouraged to use their educational opportunities in order to become independent decision-makers, with a positive set of values. These values include honesty, respect for self and others, and a willingness to work cooperatively with all members of the college community in preparation for their place in society.

## **VALUES**

St. Arnaud Secondary College values are:

- RESPECT – students, staff and parents show, respect for others and themselves.
- RESILIENCE – students, staff and parents develop practical wellbeing strategies to build resilience
- RESPONSIBILITY - students, staff and parents take responsibility for their actions and learning.

*“Strive High, Then Higher”*

The College values excellence in teaching and learning, which provides for equity, challenges and satisfies all students.

The principles that will underpin our approach will be the engagement of students in their learning and lifelong strategies by using innovative thinking and inquiry-based learning in real life situations.

## **BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS**

St. Arnaud Secondary College 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.

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 and wellbeing
- 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 learning and activities
- not disrupt the learning of others
- make the most of our educational opportunities.

As community members, we will:

- model positive behaviour to the school community
- treat all 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 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 staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

*Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Code of Conduct Policy, Visitors Policy, Volunteers Policy*

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	December 2021
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	December 2025
Noting that the recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 4 years	