



St Arnaud Secondary College

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact [insert school contact details].

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 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 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 our school's vision, mission, objectives, 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

- display posters and banners that promote the values of 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

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.

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's values are Respect, Resilience and Responsibility.

We respect ourselves, our school and each another, and understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people around us.

We model and demonstrate kindness and take every opportunity to help others that may be in need.

We strive for excellence, which means trying our hardest and doing our best.

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.

Shared expectations of staff, parents, carers and students to support positive student behaviour are set out in the [Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour statement](#).

Students are also supported by school staff to meet expected standards of behaviour as outlined in our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Inclusion and Diversity Policy, Bullying Prevention Policy

Staff 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's Code of Conduct](#).

Parents and carers play a vital role in helping their child understand and meet shared behaviour expectations. Additionally, information about the expectations of 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. Schools can share these expectations through use of [posters](#) available in over [30 translated languages](#).

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 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 according 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/website
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- [Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour](#)

St Arnaud Secondary College policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy

- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy
- Respect for School Staff Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	December 2025
Approved by	School Council - March 2026
Next scheduled review date	December 2029