Ringwood 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 Ringwood Secondary College on (03) 9870 2002.

Ringwood Secondary College is committed to creating and maintaining a child safe and child-friendly organisation. The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian schools to ensure they are well prepared to keep children and young people safe and protect them from abuse. Ministerial Order 1359 provides the framework for child safety in schools.

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

Ringwood 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 Ringwood 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, objective, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our college 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
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies

SCHOOL VISION

At Ringwood Secondary College, our primary goal is to nurture a learning community that addresses the distinct academic, physical, social and emotional needs of our students. We strive to foster the holistic development of everyone, enabling them to achieve their maximum potential. Our aim is for every child to experience growth and success. This vision is underpinned by the core values of Respect, Resilience and Achievement:

- Respect for yourself, others and our community
- Resilience in yourself and encouraged in others
- Achievement by doing your best and always looking to improve

MISSION STATEMENT

Ringwood Secondary College is an inclusive learning community that caters for the development of the whole person, allowing them to reach their full potential. The college provides a safe and secure learning environment with a full range of dynamic and challenging academic and extracurricular programs.

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

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">RESPECT: consideration of self and others</td></tr>
<tr><td>Self

We show respect for ourselves by:

• Knowing ourselves and living by personal and school values and behaviours

• Demonstrating care and regard for self, using inclusive and positive language, being responsible for our individual behaviour and learning</td><td>Others

We show respect for others by:

• Being considerate to others and respecting diversity and valuing individual differences

• Keeping the environment clean and cared for</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">RESILIENCE: confidence to face challenges and solve problems</td></tr>
<tr><td>Self

• Using flexible thinking to adapt and grow in response to challenges

• Open to support from others</td><td>Others

• Listening to others and providing support and/or tools to cope

• Providing compassion in our attitude and actions to support others when faced with adversity</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">ACHIEVEMENT: commitment to accomplishing our best</td></tr>
<tr><td>Self

• Setting and reflecting on learning behaviours, academic pursuits and extra-curricular activities

• Endeavour to take ownership and always do the best we can</td><td>Others

• Supporting and celebrating others' achievements

• Sharing mutual success as part of a broader school community</td></tr>
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BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Ringwood 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 (available in 30 translated languages).

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 and 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.

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 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 way:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- 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
- Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour

Ringwood Secondary College policies:

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

Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	July 2026
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	July 2030