



# Statement of Values and School Philosophy

Bendigo Senior Secondary College is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. Our college recognises the importance of the partnership between our college 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 college environment for our students.

The programs and teaching at Bendigo Senior 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 college's vision, mission, objective, values and expectations of our college community. This policy is available on our college website, our staff induction material and in student and parent digital handbooks.

To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our college community, we

- display posters and banners that promote these values in our college
- document behaviours which align to these values for students, parents and staff
- embed the values into our student progressive reporting
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

## VISION

Bendigo Senior Secondary College's vision is to empower learners for individual, community and global leadership.

Dated: September 2021

Person Responsible: Principal

Endorsed by College Council: November 2021

Review: September 2025

Bendigo Senior Secondary College: Department of Education & Training CRICOS Provider Code: 00861K

## MISSION

Bendigo Senior Secondary College's mission is to support students to develop the skills, knowledge and attributes required to contribute positively to the community.

## OBJECTIVE

Bendigo Senior Secondary College's objective is to ensure all students leave the college with a sustainable pathway to further education, training or employment.

## VALUES

Bendigo Senior Secondary College's values are *Respect, Optimism, Learning and Engagement*.

Respect means

- demonstrating respect for students and colleagues
- building positive relationships with all in the college community
- being proactive
- treating all members of the college community equitably
- respecting our environment

Optimism means

- maintaining a positive outlook
- being open and resilient
- knowing and expecting that all students can learn
- embracing change

Learning means

- believing in life long learning
- taking responsibility for your own learning
- valuing effort more than ability
- continuously improving
- engaging in self reflection

Engagement means

- making decisions focused on student learning
- differentiating
- taking pride in being part of the college community

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Bendigo Senior 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 college.

As principals and school leaders, we will:

- model positive behaviour and effective leadership
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the college community

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- work collaboratively to create a college 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 the college
- 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 college communication and complaints procedures
- ask any person who is acting in an offensive, intimidating or otherwise inappropriate way to leave the college 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 college community
- proactively engage with parents about student outcomes
- 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 college leaders in the event we anticipate or face any tension or challenging behaviours from parents
- treat all members of the college community with respect.

As parents and carers, we will:

- model positive behaviour to our child
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the college community
- ensure our child attends the college on time, every day the college is open for instruction
- take an interest in the college and in our child's learning
- work with the college to achieve the best outcomes for our child
- communicate constructively with the college and use expected processes and protocols when raising concerns
- support college staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students
- follow the college's processes for communication with staff and making complaints
- treat all college leaders, staff, students, and other members of the college community with respect.

As students, we will:

- model positive behaviour to other students
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the college community
- comply with and model college values

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- behave in a safe and responsible manner
- respect ourselves, other members of the college community and the college environment.
- actively participate in the college and all it offers
- not disrupt the learning of others and make the most of our educational opportunities.

As community members, we will:

- model positive behaviour to the college community
- treat other members of the college community with respect
- support college staff to maintain a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students
- utilise the college'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 *Working with Children, Visitors and Volunteers 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 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*.

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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 college community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our college website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff portal
- Included in transition and enrolment processes
- Included in online student and parent information handbooks

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