

 <p>Belmont High School 'Strive for the Highest' www.bhs.vic.edu.au</p>	Statement of Values and School Philosophy OFFICIAL	
Policy Status: FINAL	Document Owner: Principal Team	Authorised by: BHS School Council
Date of issue: 20/07/2021	Review Date: July 2025	Version 2

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

Belmont High School 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 Belmont High School 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 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 your values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- celebrate our values at each of our school assemblies and during special events
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

VISION

Belmont High School is a learning community for both students and adults. We organise learning according to developmental needs and provide learning experiences, wellbeing, a positive set of values and attitudes, and outstanding opportunities and experiences. On leaving school, our young people are equipped for the challenges of the 21st Century, and have enjoyed their time with us.

'What we want for our children we want for our teachers, that school be a place of learning for both of them and that such learning be suffused with excitement, engagement, passion, creativity and joy' (Professor Andy Hargreaves)



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MISSION

Belmont High School's mission is to ensure a dynamic, personalised and positive learning community with its foundation in research and best educational practices, allowing our learners to thrive as both active citizens and members of our proud community.

VALUES

Belmont High School's values are:





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School Value	Value in Action
Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respecting others right to learn We listen and engage with others in a respectful way. Our students are self-aware, have a high sense of self-worth and confidence Valuing others opinions Encouraging students to value their own educational journey (self –respect) Demonstrating a high level of respect towards the learning environment (classroom & climate), school environment and the broader global environment. As educators we respect our professional role and the importance we have in helping shape young people’s lives. As educators we respect the teaching and learning ethos of the school and its strategic direction for continual improvement.
Innovation & Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We stimulate curiosity through inquiry and questioning Provide opportunities and a context for students to be creative and innovative in debating or solving challenges that reflect real life situations Create preconditions that allow innovative pedagogical practices in the delivery of high quality curriculum Focus on 21st century skills to equip students with the challenges of tomorrow Personalised opportunities for growth for all learners
Opportunity & Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing learning rich and powerful learning experiences that are accessible for ALL learners Provide a great breadth of learning experiences beyond the classroom Celebrating and sharing the benefits of participation, embodying the House Spirit of inclusion, acceptance of others and involvement
High Expectations & Personal Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating opportunities for all students to experience success Develop strong personal values in the areas of honesty, resilience, empathy and respect for others



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Acceptance of Diversity (Inclusion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Promoting and understanding of the range of learners within the classroom● Students and adults demonstrate understanding and acceptance of others and their opinions.● Appreciation of diversity within school and the wider community
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Promoting active and engaged citizenship at both local, national and global levels● Purposeful development of a sense of belonging/connectedness and wellbeing through the strong House system
Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Develop strong personal values in the areas of honesty, resilience, empathy and respect for others● Acting with moral and ethical integrity● Students are known and supported through our extensive House System

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BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Belmont High School 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.

Wellbeing & Engagement

The House System underpins the ethics and values of Belmont High School. It develops a sense of belonging, identity and resilience, and provides opportunities for participation, involvement and leadership within the House and wider school community.

Learning & Teaching

All students are provided with access to a high quality curriculum that promotes a culture of excellence by providing challenging, stimulating and personalized learning experiences for all students.



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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
- 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.

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

As community members, we will:

- model positive behaviour to the school community
- treat other 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 a mediation or counselling sessions
- implementing specific communication protocols



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- 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Related policies:

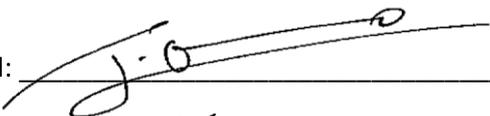
Student Wellbeing and Engagement

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on 20/07/2021 and is scheduled for review every 4 years and is due in July 2025.

AUTHORISATION

This policy and procedure was ratified by School Council on: 20/07/2021

Signed:  (School Council President)

Signed:  (School Council Executive Officer)