



Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the General Office.

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

Upwey 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 families 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 Upwey 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 and values and our expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website and is included as part of our staff induction process.

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 on Audiri
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values through the house system
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, at meetings and assemblies.

VISION

Upwey High School aims to develop students who will be resilient and responsible, highly motivated, lifelong learners. Through the establishment of positive relationships and high expectations, students will be encouraged to reach their full potential.

ENACTMENT OF SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Upwey High School affirms democratic principles and our school vision through our policies and processes. In all documents, in all practice by students and teachers, in work with the School Council and the community, in all teaching and learning programs, in all school initiatives, in all internal and external interactions, in all organisational structures and practices democratic principles guide our work and the vision of the school will sit at the centre.

We expect our work to align with the school vision. Regular evaluation processes are in place to measure performance in all areas of the school with respect to the implementation of the vision and values of the school.

The process at our school can be represented as the vision and values at the centre of a circle. A further outer ring will be a set of practices. A detailed list of school policies will sit within this framework.

In all work in the school, the following question is asked: *'Is this work or process in line with the school vision and values?'* This question will be a fundamental part of the practice of all leaders in the school.

OBJECTIVE

Our school's objectives are considered as part of the four 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

Upwey High School's values are **Aspiration, Respect and Kindness**. Upwey High School students aspire to do their best. They respect themselves, our school and others. They understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people around us. We model and demonstrate kindness.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Upwey High School acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture.

Staff have a range of expectations around behaviour and 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 Code of Conduct.

Students are 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

Information about the expectations on 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 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/manual
- Included as an annual reference in Audiri
- Made available in hard copy from the =General Office 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](#)

Upwey High school policies:

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2023
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	2026