Fountain Gate Secondary College

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Help for non-English speakers

Help for non-English speakers If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact 03 8762 6898 or email fountain.gate.sc@education.vic.gov.au

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

Fountain Gate Secondary College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be our primary focus in care and decision-making. Fountain Gate Secondary College has zero tolerance for child abuse.

FGSC is committed to providing a child-safe environment where children and young people feel safe, and their voices are heard in decisions that affect their lives. Attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in FGSC has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play, individually and collectively, to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people remains at the forefront of everything they do and every decision they make.

FGSC 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 Fountain Gate 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 for the school community. This policy is available on our school website.

Vision

Fountain Gate Secondary College's vision is *'Knowing our students and giving every student every opportunity to thrive by providing high-quality learning and pathways to success, aligned with their interests, aspirations and strengths.'*

Mission

At Fountain Gate Secondary College, we are committed to ensuring every student can thrive, achieve their best and develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to participate positively in their community and shape their future.

Objective

Our school's objectives are part of the 4-year strategic planning process and are 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

Fountain Gate Secondary College is a Child Safe School. We are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the children and young people in our care. As a community, we believe in and promote the following values:

RESPECT

- Taking pride in ourselves, others and the environment
- Showing understanding to others
- Allowing everyone the opportunity to learn
- Demonstrating understanding through accepting individual differences

RESPONSIBILITY

- Being accountable for ourselves and showing a willingness to learn and contribute
- Accepting consequences for our actions

ENDEAVOUR

- Always striving to achieve our personal best
- Demonstrating resilience and perseverance
- Having pride in our achievements

HONESTY

- A willingness to admit mistakes and learn from them
- Demonstrating integrity in our interactions with others

All members of our community are expected to behave in a manner consistent with these values.

Behavioural Expectations

Fountain Gate Secondary College acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers, and students affects 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.

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
- ensure all parents/carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the Department's Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy
- 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 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, in line with the Department's Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy.
- 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.

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 External Providers & Visitors Policy). Unreasonable behaviour 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 appropriate consequences implemented by the school Principal.

At the Principal's discretion, unreasonable behaviour may be managed by:

- requesting that the parties attend a mediation or counselling session
- 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 accordance with our school's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy.

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
- 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

Related FGSC policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- External Providers & Visitors Policy

The legal obligations for this responsibility are clearly outlined in the following relevant legislation:

- Child Safety Act
- The Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of protected attributes (characteristics) including race, religion, disability, sex, age, gender identity and sexual orientation.
- The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)
- The Disability Standards for Education 2005
- The Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)

The school also subscribes to the Child Safe principles outlined in Ministerial Statement 870 and upholds zero tolerance for child abuse.

Policy Review and Approval

Plan last reviewed	26th October 2026
Approved by	School Council - 26th October 2026
Next scheduled review date	26th October 2030