



WEEROONA COLLEGE BENDIGO STATEMENT OF VALUES PROMOTING A HEALTHY, SAFE AND RESPECTFUL SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Weeroona College Bendigo 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 Weeroona College Bendigo 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, values, and expectations of our school community.

This Statement of Values sets out our behavioural expectations for all members in our school community, including the principal, all school staff, parents, students, and visitors. We respect the diversity of individuals in our school community and address the shared responsibilities of all members in building and maintaining a safe, respectful, and culturally inclusive school community. We acknowledge a shared responsibility to create a positive learning environment for the children and young people at our school.

RESPONSIBILITIES

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 conduct 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 monitor arrangements to ensure the care, safety, security, and general wellbeing of all students at the school.

- Identify and support students who are or may be at risk.
- Do our best to ensure every young person 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 or disorderly way to leave the school grounds.

AS TEACHERS AND ALL NON-TEACHING 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/CARERS, WE WILL:

- Model positive behaviour to our child/children.
- 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.

Our College vision statement –“We care about our students at Weeroona College Bendigo and we help them to thrive.”
Our College Values are RESPECT, INTEGRITY, PERSONAL EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION AND RESILIENCE. We are RIPIR people.

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.

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* 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* 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.