



# STATEMENT OF VALUES & SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

## 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our school community and explain the vision, mission and objectives of our school.

## 2. POLICY

- 2.1. The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS) 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.
- 2.2. The programs and teaching at VCASS support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:
- a) elected government
  - b) the rule of law
  - c) equal rights for all before the law
  - d) freedom of religion
  - e) freedom of speech and association
  - f) the values of openness and tolerance.
- 2.3. This policy outlines our school's vision, mission, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website.
- 2.4. To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our school community, we
- a) promote our values in our school through the Comm Screens
  - b) celebrate our values in our school e-newsletter
  - c) provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
  - d) discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

## 3. VISION

- 3.1. The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School aspires to be one of the finest schools for talented young dancers, musicians, visual artists and theatre artists internationally, through the provision of innovative, creative and excellent programs.
- 3.2. Students from the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School will be resilient, self-confident, creative, passionate and compassionate individuals, who will have developed beyond their expectations. They will be significant contributors to the artistic and cultural life of Australia, as well as at an international level.

## 4. MISSION

- 4.1. The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School provides a nationally and internationally recognised specialist program for the training of talented young dancers, musicians, visual artists and theatre artists. Integral to this program is the provision of a high quality academic

education that is also offered to other elite training organizations. Within our school community, students will be encouraged to develop a passion for learning and a sense of respect for themselves and others.

4.2. The school is committed to providing a safe and nurturing learning environment that recognises and caters for the different academic, artistic, cultural, health and pastoral needs of students.

4.3. The school is also committed to providing state of the art facilities and resources designed to meet its specific responsibilities as a significant institution for the education and training of young dancers, musicians, visual artists and theatre artists.

## 5. OBJECTIVE

5.1. Our school's objectives are considered as part of the 4 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.

## 6. VALUES

6.1. The programs of, and teaching in, the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School support and promote our commitment to the arts, education and training through:

- a) the importance of, and promise to, our Philosophy as expressed through these 'Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles'
- b) our desire to achieve a highly positive ethos and culture within our programs of academic, dance, music, visual arts and theatre arts
- c) the way we value the arts and the expression of this through our organisation, planning and priorities
- d) our guarantee to the principles of education and training within our heritage programs of dance and music and how this may influence all other programs in the school now and in the future
- e) children should be safe in all school environments and outside school hours when in our care and we have zero tolerance for child abuse

6.2. 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.

## 7. COMMUNICATION

7.1. This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- a) available publicly on our school's website
- b) included in staff induction processes
- c) included in staff handbook/manual
- d) included in enrolment packs

## 8. RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

8.1. Department of Education policies and resources:

- a) [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- b) [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)

8.2. VCASS policies:

- a) [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- b) [Inclusion and Diversity Policy](#)
- c) [Bullying Prevention Policy](#)
- d) [Complaints Policy](#)

## 9. POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	December 2025
Approved by	Principal and School Council - 22 November 2022
Next scheduled review date	December 2027