

# STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

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Saltwater College aims to build a school culture that demonstrates a strong belief in and a commitment to providing a rich and rigorous curriculum within a safe, secure and enriched learning environment for our children. We will have a clear focus on catering for the diverse range of students at their point of need. We will strive to be internationally minded, and provide a supportive, nurturing and challenging learning environment, with high expectations for student success.

The school's values will be aligned with the Department of Education's philosophy: 'We support students to reach their potential, regardless of their background, postcode or circumstance, and to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to participate and thrive in a complex economy and society'.

The Community at Saltwater College will live by this set of values, where an understanding and respect of all cultures and beliefs will be an essential characteristic of productive and compassionate citizens of the third millennium.

Saltwater College will not just be a school committed to high academic standards, it will also be a school that prepares students to be curious, critical and creative thinkers and problem solvers who are technologically literate and capable of bringing about positive change in the world in which we live. This will be underpinned by our school motto: 'Wisdom Begins with Wonder.'

Another major feature of our school's curriculum will also be around the establishment of an exclusive Performing Arts and Sporting Program which will foster students intellectual, social and physical development.

## 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

Saltwater College 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 SaltwaterP-9 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, objective, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website and our staff induction handbook.

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
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

## VISION

We provide more than just an education to prepare students for success in an ever changing world.

## MISSION

To educate and guide intelligence and character in order to live creatively, ethically and productively.

## OBJECTIVE

Saltwater College objective is to:

- Offer high quality education within a supportive and understanding environment
- Develop critical and creative learners who actively engage in the learning process to acquire knowledge, skills, concepts and attitudes.
- Encourage cultural understanding and acceptance of diversity.
- Encourage communication in both social and academic environments between all members of the community.

## VALUES

In order to achieve our vision and mission, we as a community of learners at SaltwaterP-9 College, welcome the challenges of the third millennium by developing in each of our students the capacity to embrace the characteristics of a well-educated and internationally minded person. As the College works towards becoming part of the International Baccalaureate's community of schools, our vision and mission will have a strong focus on cultivating the philosophy, ethos and the values of the programme.

### **International Baccalaureate Mission Statement**

The International Baccalaureate Organisation aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the IBO works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

## **The Profile of the Third Millennium Learner**

The community at Saltwater College will strive to exhibit and foster a distinctive set of attributes. These qualities, embodied in the International Baccalaureate's Learner Profile, prepare students to make exceptional contributions at school and beyond.

IB learners strive to be:

- Caring
- Knowledgeable
- Inquirers
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective

### **Attitudes:**

To develop these attributes, students will learn to embrace and adopt the following attitudes into their daily school life.

- Appreciation
- Commitment
- Confidence
- Cooperation
- Creativity
- Curiosity
- Empathy
- Enthusiasm
- Independence
- Integrity
- Respect
- Tolerance

### **BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS**

Saltwater College 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.

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.

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
- 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*.

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.

## REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on May 2021 and is scheduled for review in May 2024.