

## STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

### 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

Monash Children's Hospital School (MCHS) is committed and responsible to provide a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and community members. Our school recognises the importance of the partnership between our staff members to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing.

The programs and teaching at Monash Children's Hospital 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, mission, objective, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website, our staff induction handbook and MCHS brochure.

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
- discuss our values with students, parents/carers and colleagues.



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and Health Together*

## VISION

Monash Children's Hospital School's vision is to ensure our young people will have access to high quality teaching and learning that will ensure continuity of their education regardless of their health condition.

## MISSION

Monash Children's Hospital School's mission is to provide education for children who are inpatients and/or outpatients of Monash Children's Hospital inclusive of Early in Life Mental Health Services (ELMHS).

## OBJECTIVE

Monash Children's Hospital School's objective is to provide continuity of a young person's education and assist them to stay connected to their base school/education provider.

## VALUES

Monash Children's Hospital School's values are Collaboration, Inclusion and Excellence.



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## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Monash Children's Hospital School 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.

*'Monash Children's Hospital School aims to build a safe and supportive environment and culture, one that promotes positive relationships, values diversity and inclusivity and supports the holistic development of our students.'*

As principals and school leaders, we will:

- model positive behaviour and effective leadership
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school/hospital 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
- do our best to ensure every child achieves their personal and learning potential while acknowledging the impact of their health condition on their capacity to learn
- work with parents/guardians or carers to understand their child's needs and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly

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/hospital community
- proactively engage with parents/guardians and carers 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/chronic health conditions



- communicate with the principal and school leaders in the event we anticipate or face any tension or challenging behaviours from parents/guardians and carers.
- 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/hospital community
- 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
- treat all school leaders, staff, students, and other members of the school/hospital community with respect.

As students, we will:

- model positive behaviour to other students
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school/hospital 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
- 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



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## UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOURS

Schools are not public places, and the Principal has the right to permit or deny entry to school spaces (for more information, see our *Visitors Policy*). Please note that this right to permit or deny entry to the school will involve joint consultation and discussion between Monash Children's Hospital School and Monash Children's Hospital.

Unreasonable behaviour that is demonstrated by school staff, parents, carers, students or members of our school/hospital 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 in consultation with the Leadership team members of Monash Children's Hospital.

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 spaces or school activities
- exclusion from school spaces 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.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy is aligned and relates to the following MCHS policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Visitors Policy
- Volunteers Policy
- Child Safe Standards Policy
- Communication and Complaints Policy

#### REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on 10 May 2021 and is scheduled for review in May 2025.

