



Statement of Values and School Philosophy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the office on 03 5973 9100.

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

Benton Junior 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.

Benton Junior College fosters a community of learners who are confident, creative and challenged to achieve their full potential.

The programs and teaching at Benton Junior 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.

VISION

Our vision is to create a vibrant, inclusive and connected school community where everyone belongs and every child is known, valued and supported to thrive. Guided by our mission to motivate to learn, to teach to think, to encourage to imagine and to show the compassion to care globally, we inspire students to become thoughtful, capable and compassionate contributors to their community and the wider world.

At the heart of our vision is a commitment to excellence for all. Through high expectations and a culture of respect and belonging, we empower every learner to strive for their personal best while developing the knowledge, skills and confidence needed for lifelong learning.



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Our teaching and learning is grounded in best evidence-based practices, ensuring an engaging, inclusive and supportive environment where each child grows academically, socially and emotionally. Strong partnerships between students, families and staff create meaningful connections that strengthen our sense of community and collective responsibility for every child's success.

Our shared values guide how we learn and work together each day: we are respectful, we are resilient, we are safe and we are learners. These values shape a learning culture where curiosity is encouraged, challenges are embraced and every student feels supported to explore their potential

MISSION

Benton Junior College mission statement is:

"To motivate to learn; to teach to think; to encourage to imagine, and to show the compassion to care globally".

VALUES

Our values are embedded in every aspect of our school:

- We are respectful
- We are resilient
- We are safe
- We are learners

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Benton Junior 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



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- 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.



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As students, we will:

- model positive behaviour to other students
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community.
- show pride in my school
- behave in a safe and responsible manner
- respect ourselves, other members of the school community and the school environment
- accept learning challenges with enthusiasm
- 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 Working with Children's 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.



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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*.

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	February 2026
Approved by	Mel Wisniewski, Principal
Endorsed	March 2026 - School Council
Next scheduled review date	February 2030