

# Statement of Values & School Philosophy



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the School Office on 03 8552 0583 or 03 98713275

## School Profile Statement

Avenues Education is a South East Victoria Region (SEVR) outreach government school that works in partnership with Child Youth Mental Health Services (Alfred & Eastern Health CYMHS). CYMHS refer students to Avenues Education to provide targeted educational services for individual and groups of students experiencing social, emotional, and/or mental health difficulties in accessing education. CYMHS provides a comprehensive range of psychiatric assessments and services for children, youth and families experiencing mental health, social, emotional, behavioural and developmental difficulties and refer to Avenues Education for a range of educational interventions. Students participating in Avenues Education retain enrolment in their school of origin. Depending on the program and individual health needs, students undertake sessions with Avenues Education either at their school of origin or at Avenues Education locations.

Avenues Education provides tiered support directly to SEVR schools, including mental health prevention and promotion activities, school capability building sessions and professional learning as well as consultation and liaison.

## 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

Avenues Education 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 Avenues Education 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 in our staff manual.

## Vision, Mission & Values

Avenues Education is an innovative government school that provides targeted educational services for students experiencing social, emotional and mental health difficulties in accessing education. We provide schools with tiered interventions to assist them in recognising and responding to the mental health needs of students and reduce the barriers to engagement in learning. We work in partnership with Child and Youth Mental Health Services to provide students with the necessary skills to access educational pathways.

We are dedicated professional teachers and staff who are committed to positive student mental health outcomes. We continually strive to provide a range of supports that reflect the complex mental health needs of students in our community.

The goal of our values matrix is to create a positive and safe learning environment that enables the student to learn the necessary skills to access education. Our values matrix establishes what behaviours should look, sound and feel like for our students. We explicitly teach these behaviours as skills. We introduce, model and reinforce these with each student, based on their individualised needs. These skills are necessary for students to successfully navigate their life in a positive, safe and meaningful way.

<b>Be Hopeful</b>	<b>Be a Learner</b>	<b>Be Kind</b>
Plan for your future	Use coping and regulation strategies	Take time to care for your physical and mental self
Accept your strengths and build on your gaps	Seek help	Uncover what brings you enjoyment
Advocate for yourself	Communicate your thoughts and clarify instructions	Use a growth mindset of “I haven’t got it yet”
Practice problem solving	Track and celebrate your growth	Take supported risks
Find your people	Know how you learn	Have courage to make mistakes

We teach our values as personal and social skills by:

*Plan – discuss strengths and gaps to build IEP*

*Voice – introduce the skill and discuss what it means to the student*

*Show – demonstrate and model*

*Practice – role play and practice in different contexts*

*Monitor – strengthen practice of skills and provide positive feedback*

*Re-teach – review, adjust and practice until automatic*

Our Statement of Values is available online at our website: <http://www.avenuesed.vic.edu.au/>

## Objective

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.

## Behaviour Expectations

We acknowledge that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture. Staff have a range of expectations around behaviour and must follow our school and Department policies and the Victorian Public Service Code of Conduct and Values. Teaching staff also adhere to the [Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#). Students are supported by school staff to meet expected standards of behaviour as outlined in our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Inclusion and Diversity Policy, Bullying Prevention Policy. Information about the expectations on parents and carers to ensure schools remain respectful and inclusive places is outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#).

## Unreasonable Behaviour

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:

- being violent or threatening violence of any kind, including physically intimidating behaviour such as aggressive hand gestures or invading another person's personal space
- speaking or behaving in a rude, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via email, social media, or over the telephone
- sending demanding, rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- discriminatory 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 Principal. Inappropriate student behaviour will be managed in accordance with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy* and *Bullying Prevention Policy*.

At the Principal's discretion, unreasonable behaviour may be managed by:

- requesting that the parties attend a mediation or counselling session
- implementing specific communication protocols
- written warnings
- conditions of entry to school or school activities
- exclusion from school grounds or attendance at school activities
- reports to Victoria Police
- legal action

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.

## Communication

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in the Staff Manual

## Further information and resources

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

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

Related Avenues Education Policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy
- Child Safe Standards Policy

## Policy review and approval

Policy last reviewed	March 2022
Consultation	School Council (Accepted 23.03.2022)
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	March 2025