

## STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact the MFG General Office on (03) 4243 0500

### 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

Matthew Flinders Girls (MFG) 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 MFG 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 Compass/School Documentation/MFG Community/Policies, 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

MFG's vision is to *create lifelong learners who live the MFG traits as positive members of their communities.*

### MISSION

We will do this by fostering our MFG traits (as listed) in our students to meet our MFG objectives.

## **MFG TRAITS (VALUES)**

MFG learners can articulate a core set of values and ethical principles which they apply to their lives.

They are:

- Kind, compassionate and trustworthy
- Caring and respectful of others and themselves
- Knowledgeable about learning and self-aware
- Deep thinkers who are curious and creative
- Problem solvers
- Resilient, adaptable, and able to learn from mistakes
- Hard-working, ambitious, and confident
- Able to respect and celebrate difference and diversity
- Optimistic about the future
- Responsible and active local and global citizens
- Flexible collaborators, leaders, and team members

## **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.

## **BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS**

MFG 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 students at our school.

As principals and school leaders, we will:

- model MFG traits, 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 MFG traits, 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 MFG traits, 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 MFG traits, 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 MFG traits, 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 according 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.

## COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Available on the MFG Compass/School Documentation/MFG Community/Policies
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Available in hard copy from the office

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

Respect for School Staff Policy

Complaints Policy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	20 March 2023
Approved by	School Council
School Council President	Susan Ryan
Next scheduled review date	March 2026