

## 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 Victorian School of Languages (03) 9474 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

The Victorian School of Languages (VSL) 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 the Victorian School of Languages 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 the school website [www.vsl.vic.edu.au](http://www.vsl.vic.edu.au), our staff handbook, and staff induction handbook.

To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our school community, we:

- celebrate our values in our school newsletter and other public forums
- celebrate and recognise students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies

### VISION

The Victorian School of Languages vision is to:

- provide an education environment which challenges students and encourages excellence in language teaching and learning
- be a leader in the development of online provision of languages
- encourage positive community values and promote positive values of multiculturalism
- work collaboratively with officers of the various section of the DET, VCAA and interstate Government Language schools to develop and share curriculum and administrative resources
- Promote the benefits of language study to students and the wide school community
- Empower students to reach their personal best

### MISSION

The school will provide an education environment which challenges and extends individual students and encourages excellence in teaching and learning in the area of Languages study. It will support the teaching of existing and new emerging languages. In particular, provide and extend its service to the new outer metropolitan suburbs, to regional and country Victoria and cater for demographic changes. It will endeavour to reflect positive community values, promote inclusiveness, celebrate cultural diversity and ensure a safe environment for students.

## 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.

The school aims to see the following goals achieved:

### 1. *Curriculum Goals*

- To provide a range of comprehensive Language courses of the highest quality within an appropriate cultural context to students from Foundation to Year 12 (VCE) in accordance with DET and VCAA guidelines.
- To provide a full range of VCE Languages and give special support to those languages of low candidature for which is VSL is the main/only provider.
- To provide a dynamic and purposeful teaching program which engages student interest, recognises individual differences and develops the potential of all students.
- To provide assistance to languages of new and emerging communities to obtain VCE accreditation with the VCAA.
- To improve student achievement in Languages from Foundation to Year 12 (SSP 2019-2023)

### 2. *Environmental Goals*

- To ensure, in association with all host schools, a safe, clean, comfortable and attractive physical teaching and learning environment for students, teachers and administrative staff.
- To implement a Child Safe Strategy and a Code of Conduct that protects students from abuse or any type of harm.
- To develop and maintain a caring and positive learning environment which respects the rights and safety of all students and staff.
- To develop and maintain a harmonious and tolerant school/centre which respects and values the contribution of people of different backgrounds and cultures.
- To improve student Engagement in Language learning (SSP 2019-2023).
- To improve student Wellbeing from Foundation to Year 12 (SSP 2019-2023).

### 3. *Management Goals*

- To effectively utilise human resources.
- To follow a systematic approach to planning.
- To implement effective and consultative decision-making practices.
- To maintain good relationships with host schools.
- To assist teachers with their ongoing professional development and improve their teaching and leadership skills.
- To constantly review school structures in the light of changing needs and circumstances
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### 4. *Accountability Goals*

- To provide accurate reports to DET and the school community about VSL classes and VSL decisions.
- To ensure fair, accurate and regular assessment and reporting of students' progress.
- To manage the annual implementation of teachers' Performance and Development Plans.
- To ensure that new DET officers who deal with the VSL become familiar with the VSL's special structure.

### 5. *Resource Goals*

- To allocate financial resources in the Student Resources Package (SRP) to enable the achievement of goals and priorities.
- To ensure that the school's physical resources match the curriculum requirements of both face to face and Distance Education classes and are equitably distributed.
- To implement flexible arrangements of service delivery through fee for service structures to other schools.
- To fund the development of new Language courses both in paper form and in online delivery.
- To monitor the school's SRP to ensure that all relevant funding is received.

At the VSL We respect ourselves, our school and each another, and understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people around us.

The VSL's values are:

- A respect for language as a way to increase lifelong opportunities for learners.
- A commitment to students from all communities and socio-economic backgrounds to study a language of their choice.
- A strong sense of community and teamwork which embraces diversity as a strength.
- A commitment to students from country, regional and metropolitan areas to have increased access to languages subject choice.
- A commitment to encourage the development of individual student resilience, self-confidence and a sense of personal efficacy and identity.

### BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

The VSL 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
- ensure all parents/carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- 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, in line with the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- 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:

- 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 Area Manager and 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
- issuing a School Community Safety Order <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/PAL/letter-template-to-issue-an-immediate-school-community-safety-order-in-writing.docx>
- 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: [www.vsl.vic.edu.au](http://www.vsl.vic.edu.au)
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

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

Example school policies:

- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*
- *Inclusion and Diversity Policy*
- *Bullying Prevention Policy*
- *Complaints Policy*

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2022
Consultation	School Council – October 4, 2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2026