

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 JMSS Office: (03)9905 1002 or john.monash.ss@education.vic.gov.au

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

John Monash Science School 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 John Monash Science 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 [insert or amend] on our school website, our staff induction handbook, student diary and enrolment/transition packs.

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.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

John Monash Science School is the outcome of a unique strategic partnership between the Victorian Government and Monash University. The stated mission of the John Monash Science School was articulated in the Lease struck between Monash University and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in 2008. The school opened in 2010 after some nine years of consultation between government, Monash University and other stakeholders.

To understand John Monash Science School today, it is appropriate to outline the original intentions of this partnership. In summary, they were for JMSS to be a nationally and internationally recognised centre of excellence in innovative research-based teaching and learning in the later years of secondary science, mathematics, associated technologies, resource development and pedagogy. JMSS would contribute to Victoria's, and the Nation's, long term economic, social, cultural and environmental goals through delivery of high quality education in science, technology and innovation. The purpose of the JMSS aligned with the summary and recommendations from the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the promotion of Science and Mathematics. More specifically, JMSS will:

- a. increase the proportion of the state's highest achievers pursuing Mathematics and Science into senior secondary and university studies;
- a. address skill shortages in the economy through the integration of business, industry, research applications, career and subject advice within the school curriculum;
- a. provide more effective student engagement through innovation in a relevant and integrated curriculum and investigation-based learning approaches;
- a. develop high quality effective teaching strategies to be shared amongst teachers throughout the state; and
- a. provide ongoing up-to-date knowledge in rapidly advancing areas of science.

Furthermore it was intended that JMSS would become a school that would:

- a. develop and foster a passionate curiosity of science and mathematics in students;
- a. challenge students to develop deep understanding through engagement with ideas and evidence;
- a. link student learning with business, industry and research sectors of the community;
- a. personalise student learning;
- a. use assessment for making informed and consistent judgements to improve future student learning by ongoing gathering, analysing and reflecting on evidence;
- a. foster high levels of student achievement;
- a. create opportunities for students to meet the requirements of AusVELS, complete a VCE and obtain an ATAR score to support applications for entry into courses in tertiary education;
- a. stimulate and support ongoing teacher learning and collaborative teacher research within the school;
- a. develop and improve the quality of teaching practices of pre-service teachers;
- a. develop innovative curriculum and teaching resources and practices that are shared across Victorian secondary schools;
- a. promote and provide credentialed professional learning for teachers in Victoria and elsewhere.

VISION

The vision of John Monash Science School is to become a centre of excellence in senior science and mathematics education which is recognised across Australia and internationally for the development of innovative, research-informed pedagogy and curriculum. The school seeks to build and strengthen connections with globally renowned science and education-oriented organisations to inform and enhance the opportunities it can provide for every member of the school community.

The Mission of John Monash Science School is to build a dynamic learning community that encourages all members to engage with science and mathematics and to develop the skills, attributes and knowledge that will inform, challenge and enrich their thinking and so position them to make a valuable contribution to our world.

VALUES

John Monash Science School utilises the UNESCO's four pillars of learning to guide its values.

- Learning to Do: focused on knowledge and skill acquisition
- Learning to Be: focused on developing good people with strong character
- Learning to Know: focused on thinking and understanding
- Learning to Live Together: focused on developing social and emotion skills and building good relationships

We recognise that learning is a lifelong process. All four pillars are equally important and the word 'learning' recognises that life is a process of continual growth and development.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

John Monash Science School acknowledges 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 and other relevant policies that can be found on the school's website.

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 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 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* 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
- Included in induction processes for relevant staff
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

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

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2023
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	March 2027