



# Tyrrell College School Philosophy

## Section – Governance

### Policy No – GOV001

#### School Profile

Tyrrell College, a Prep to Year 12 school, is located in the small Mallee town of Sea Lake which is about 400 kilometres North West of Melbourne. The closest rural centre of significant size is Swan Hill (75 kilometres). The community is mainly farm based and the area is well known for its rich grain farming. The local economy and demography is affected by the range of factors that impact on farming, including extremes in climate and the consolidation of farms into larger scale operations in contexts of increased use of technology and economies of scale. The College enrolments have slightly declined over the past four years. Currently 165 students are enrolled. The school attracts about 60% of district preschool children and typically all of Grade 6 graduates from the local Catholic primary school. The College traditionally has four primary classes – Prep, and Grades 1/2, 3/4, and 5/6. Each Year level from 7 to 12 is comprised of one class of students. VCE classes operate with one class per study. Student cohorts in each Year level can differ markedly over time. In 2015, primary levels averaged 9 students and secondary levels averaged 16.5 students. The current Student Family Occupation (SFO) index is 0.64 indicating a range in family socio – economic circumstances. There are no students with a language background other than English. Frequent exposure of students to other school communities is limited due to location. The College is organised on a traditional model of primary and secondary schooling with opportunities for the two cohorts to integrate and interact together at various times over the year. There is an emphasis on literacy and numeracy, and on integrated personal development. The AusVELS and VCE curriculum inform curriculum delivery and organisational structures for student learning. VCE, VCAL and VET are offered as senior pathways programs. VET subjects offered include Agriculture, Engineering (unscored) and Music. In 2016 both VET Hospitality and Community Services are offered as alternatives and the College has some Distance Education classes running and some Polycom classes within the Mallee Cluster. The College is advancing its digital teaching and learning profile. The small student numbers provide a platform for relationship building between students and between students and teachers. Teachers have opportunities in this small school context to know students well, to spend more individual time with students, and to personalise learning for every student. Students participate in an extensive range of cultural, academic and sporting activities including visiting performances, drama workshops, College productions, camps and excursions, public speaking and inter college sports. The College has excellent facilities set in a large, well maintained precinct. A community complex on site provides for sporting and cultural activities and a new Building the Education Revolution funded primary wing is an outstanding facility. The College has, over some years, had a strong focus on agricultural opportunities for students. In 2011 the school was recognised for its achievements and forward thinking with a National Australia Bank Schools First National Award (\$500 000). Through this program the College is agricultural manager of two land holdings of 60 and 70 hectares on different sides of Sea Lake with VCE students having opportunities in food and livestock production with some related opportunities for elective studies in Years 8 and 9.

## **Our Purpose Statement**

Our Purpose is to provide our students with a high quality education. We have come together to build a new school learning environment that:

- engages and supports students to achieve their best
- ensures that all our students are safe in all school environments and outside of school hours as outlined in Ministerial Order No. 870.
- provides increased opportunities and outcomes for all students
- builds staff effectiveness and capacity to provide quality programs
- strengthens school-family partnerships and school-community partnerships
- high expectations for all

## **Our School Motto**

Our School Motto – *“Opportunity to Succeed”* – reflects our core purpose.

## **Our Values Statement**

**Responsibility** – Be accountable for one’s own actions, resolve differences in constructive, non-violent and peaceful ways, contribute to society and to civic life, take care of the environment.

**Respect** – Treat others with consideration and regard, respect another person’s point of view.

**Honesty and Trustworthiness** – Be honest, sincere and seek the truth.

**Doing Your Best** – Seek to accomplish something worthy and admirable, try hard and pursue excellence.

## **Our Vision Statement (to be revisited and updated in 2017 as part of the SWPB)**

At Tyrrell College our community is one that has the Highest Expectations for our students, staff, school and outcomes. Our vision is for:

- Tyrrell College seeks to inspire our students to ‘Dream Big’. They achieve this through a desire to succeed, hard work, determination and by being self-driven. Tyrrell College seeks to instil resilience, independence, community spirit, honesty, confidence and balanced morals.
- At Tyrrell College we will inspire students to seek practical and academic excellence. Develop community and global mindfulness. Take pride in ourselves, our school and our fellow students and community.
- At Tyrrell College our vision is to provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment where children will recognise and achieve their fullest potential so that they can make their best contribution to society.
- We are a diverse and collective school community that expects 100% of our students to exceed academic proficiency, to be college and/or career-ready, and to foster an identity of artistic self-expression and civic competence, as global citizens in the 21st century.

## **Our Mission Statement**

At Tyrrell College our Mission Statement is based around the 3 pillars – High Quality Teaching and Learning, Respectful and Caring Relationships and Effective Community Partnerships.

### **High Quality Teaching and Learning:**

- School wide, shared responsibility for student learning and an explicit, coherent, sequenced plan for curriculum delivery, assessment and reporting across the school.
- School wide Instructional Model used in every classroom.
- Staff teams that systematically collect, analyse and use outcomes data to drive improvement
- Differentiated teaching and learning programs targeted to the specific development of each student’s knowledge, skills, understanding and behaviours.
- Staff teams that plan, teach, reflect and grow together.

### **Respectful and Caring Relationships**

- School procedures, support programs and policies that reflect a belief that every student is important, every student is capable of learning and every student strives to reach and exceed their potential.
- A learning environment that allows for personalised learning and increased access to a range of support programs and services that meet individual needs, and minimise the impact of low socio- economic and family disadvantage
- A learning environment that is friendly, safe, caring, respectful, tolerant and inclusive
- Strong collegial relationships based on mutual trust, respect and support.

### **Effective Community Partnerships**

- Strong school-family-community partnerships that support the development of productive, healthy and well-adjusted students
- Parents, school leaders and staff working together with a strong sense of belonging and pride in the school
- Inclusive practices to develop, grow and enhance our community partner relationships to support the development of the students and the College.
- Strong links to the Sea Lake and District economic profile and inclusion within the programs of the College.

### **Statement of Commitment**

Tyrrell College is a school committed to zero tolerance of child abuse, committed to the safety of all students in an environment inclusive of all persons. This applies to all students, staff, community members working with students and all persons engaging in work directly or indirectly at the College.

### **Evaluation**

This Policy will be reviewed in line with DET Guidelines, Tyrrell College's Leadership and Consultative Teams and School Council.

<b>Date Implemented</b>	October 2016
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<b>Responsible for Review</b>	Principal
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<b>References</b>	